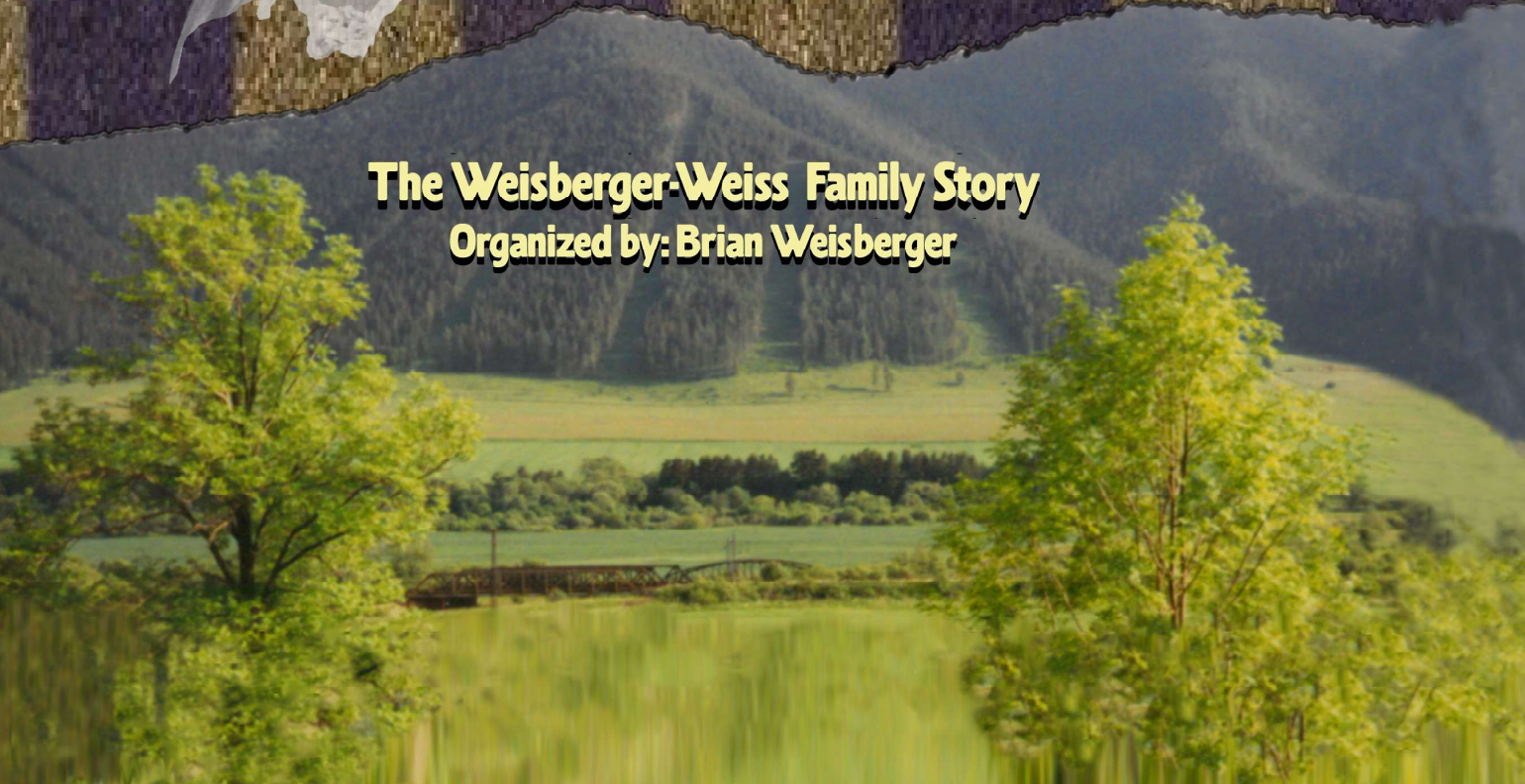


# **The Voices that Brought Us Here**

**From 1800's life in Europe to post-Holocaust  
immigration out of Slovakia**



**The Weisberger-Weiss Family Story**  
**Organized by: Brian Weisberger**





# The Weisberger – Weiss Family Story

---

From 1800's life in Europe to post-Holocaust  
immigration out of Slovakia

**Story organized by: Brian Weisberger**

This story was derived from interviews from family & friends, various survivors whose path crossed the family, and Holocaust researchers around the world. All documents are original or copies of originals provided by various governments, museums, tracing organizations, or held by family. Photos are all original photos held by various family members.



## Dedication

This is written for all those that were not able or could not share their story. For the family that was taken to the concentration camps, never to be heard from again, this is your story. For the family who survived the camps but who could not bring their voice to share, this is your story. This is our story to be shared with all the future generations. For everyone to know where we came from and what the family endured to get us to where we are at today. It is to make sure that we keep all the names, faces, and stories alive. To let our past be an example for us going forward and Never Forget.

To my father, Michael Meyer Weisberger, of blessed memory, thank you for setting me on this journey years ago by sharing your memories of your youth and instilling in me the importance of our family heritage.

### *Special Thanks to:*

*All the family members who answered the call to share their stories and old family pictures,  
Melissa Weisberger for all your editing,  
Ariel Weissberger, a master Spanish translator,  
Marta Grudzińska from State Museum at Majdanek,  
Leokadia Lewandowska & Aneta Małek from Gross-Rosen Museum,  
Ewa Bazan and Piotr Supiński from The State Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau,  
PhDr. Radoslav Ragač, PhD. from Slovak National Archives,  
Annette Kraus from Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial Museum,  
Central Office of the State Justice Administrations for the Investigation of National Socialist Crimes,  
Ulrich Fritz from Foundation Bavarian Memorials Project,  
Tatiana Babušíková from Museum of Slovak National Uprising,  
Sławomira Krupa from State Archive in Katowice,  
Ursula Mertins and Iris Gries from International Tracing Service (ITS) Bad Arolsen,  
All the archivest from United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,  
Jan Hlavinka, PhD. from Institute of History at Slovak Academy of Sciences,  
Feiga Weiss and staff at Holocaust Memorial Center of Farmington Hills,  
Archivists at Yad Vashem,  
Shoah Foundation.*

FRONT COVER: Star warn by Slovak Jews during the Holocaust, Faces of those who died during the Holocaust (Clockwise: Samuel Weisberger, Ethel Weisberger, Judit Weisberger, Filip Weisberger, Miriam Weisberger, Shoni Keisler, Miriam Keisler (nee Weiss), Moshe Weiss, Lenka Weiss, Josef Weiss), Brtkovica Mountains where the family hid and survived. BACK COVER: Surviving Weisberger and Weiss family.



## **Table of Content**

	<u><b>Page</b></u>
Foreword	4
Preface	5
<u><b>Chapters</b></u>	
1. The Weisberger Family	9
2. The Weiss Family	17
3. The Politics that Brought the Changes	19
4. Herman Weisberger's flight from Slovakia	26
5. The 1942 Family Deportations	30
6. Smuggling Fellow Jews to Switzerland	40
7. Albert's life in the United States	42
8. The Family under Hungarian Control & the Hungarian Labor Battalion	44
9. Hiding in the Mountains	53
10. Bercho Weissberger's Story of Surviving the Camps	59
11. The Family after Liberation	77
12. Starting a New Life in North America	91
 <b>Appendix I – Maps</b>	
• Map of Slovakia	95
• Area where family lived	96
• Villages family hid	97
• Herman Weisberger's flight from Czechoslovakia	98
• Bercho Weissberger & Weisberger/Weiss Family path through camps	99
• Herman & Margit Wohl path through camps	100
• Shoni Keisler path through camps	102
• Bernie Benovic path through the camps	103
<b>Appendix II – Weisberger Family Tree</b>	104
<b>Appendix III – Weiss Family Tree</b>	105
<b>Appendix IV – The "S's" in our name</b>	106

## **Foreword**

Within Survivor families, whether blood relatives or brought together as a result of a common tragedy, there is an unshakeable bond that develops. That bond, because of a common blood line, or just embracing each other as survivors, exists in the greater Weisberger/Weiss families.

Through war time in Czechoslovakia, to the post-war 1948 period when we concluded the Russian takeover was the last straw and started leaving for North America, our families stayed together. Together we celebrated our accomplishments and stayed together for our periods of difficulties. Throughout it all, we never lost sight of who we were, importance of staying together, and the value of family.

Years later, although giving appearances of physical normalcy, in truth not a night went by without each of the survivors reflecting the hell they experienced and continued periods of mourning for parents, siblings, dear friends and family whose fate was never known.

In moments when I reflect on our families and their experiences of survival, I am in awe of a generation of immigrants who by virtue of their experiences had every reason to have a defeatist outlook. Instead, through working incredibly hard, taking some risk, and some good fortune, they built a future for themselves and their families.

Chronicled throughout these pages are first-hand accounts of family members who survived this unbelievable ordeal. They share their story and the stories of those that did not survive. As the surviving generation, we inherit the task of sharing what we learn from out previous generations, with our future generations. As the Weisberger/Weiss family grows, it is our task to teach our future generations the virtues of close family ties, the importance of preserving and strengthening our Jewish faith, and most of all, remembering where we came from.

Morry Weiss

## Preface

Growing up, I knew when I would go visit with my father's side of the family most of the older family spoke broken English. That was because they were from the "Old Country" as I was told. I would hear how back in Czechoslovakia, as it was known at the time, the family lived in a village where they owned a large farm that provided for the rest of the village and were also involved in the lumber trade. Growing up in suburban Detroit, I never had a point of reference to put that in proper perspective so I just relied on scenes from American cinema. I would also see the photo on the wall of my great-grandparents, Filip & Miriam Weisberger. I knew they passed away in Europe, but never fully understood the horror they endured towards the end of their life.

When the family would gather there was rarely discussion about what happened during the Holocaust when they lived in Europe. Maybe the occasional discussion about living for some time in the mountains with Russian Partizans, or hiding with some families in a small village, but never much detailed discussion of what they endured. Most stories always seemed to find their way to memories about Humenné High. As Uncle Leo would later tell me, *"For the longest time, nobody seemed to care to hear about it, so we never talked about it."*

As I got a little older and started learning more about the Holocaust, I started to have conversations with my dad about it and what he remembered. Since he was born during this period and was a little over 8 years old when they immigrated to Canada, he did not remember much. He remembered hiding in this other family's small house with Grandma Rozie. He would look out the window and see these two mountains, that he gestured, looked like an "M". He had a vague memory of going up in the mountains at one point but mostly he remembered this feeling of being scared. Listening to him talk, you could tell he was seeing it as he told me about it. Then the memories would return to better times in Humenné. Playing ball at Humenné High, or how he would play soccer with cousin Morry in this big ally next to where they lived. Being an 8-year old at the time the memories are limited in recall.

I never fully grasped at the time that all these people were Holocaust Survivors. Within the family we never really labeled that generation as such. I would see the numbers on Aunt Margit and Uncle Bercho's forearm and I knew they endured some very bad things when they were in the camps. The horrors haunted Aunt Margit who would rarely talk about what happened to her and if she did, it was only a chosen few. They were Survivors, but the rest of the family did not label themselves the same.

To me, I just did not know any different. I thought this was what all Jewish families were like. We were just this large family that left this country that I had a hard time spelling and came to America. Isn't that the same for every Jewish family?

As I got older it all started coming into focus. When I would meet my friend's grandparents, not only did they speak perfect English, most grew up right here in the United States. I would tell



them about my family coming from Czechoslovakia and they seemed captivated by the tale. I learned more about the Holocaust in school and I would visit the local Holocaust Museum. Our story was unique. My family are Holocaust Survivors.

Back in 1992 I had the unique opportunity to go with a group of the family back to Czechoslovakia. By this time communism had just fallen and Czechoslovakia had split back to Czech Republic and Slovakia. Now these years of short tales my father shared with me would all come into perspective. Unfortunately, my father had just passed away a few years earlier from Leukemia and could not share this journey with my brother Mark and me, but I had his memories.



**ABOVE: Vyšná Radvaň – Vilmosh & Rozie's house**  
gone, but this was it. Unfortunately, at this time I did not know the full extent of my family's life in Vyšná Radvaň.

After a long flight and a few days in Prague, we boarded a bus to start the drive to Slovakia. Along the way we made it to the village of Vyšná Radvaň (today: Radvaň nad Laborcom), which was the village the family lived in before they went into hiding. Next thing I know I am being walked down the street towards this house. Not only was this my grandparents' house, but this was the house my father was born in. It was fixed up from then and the white picket fence was

We continued our journey heading to the Brtkovica Mountains and Liptovská Porúbka, where the family hid. Morry Weiss walked Mark and I down the street and pointed out this little house. This was the house that saved my father. I could see the small basement windows that looked out towards the mountains. This is where he hid along with my grandmother. This is where they pretended to be Catholics like the rest of the families in the village so they could blend in with all the other villagers. Then I looked out and saw the "M". These were the mountains he looked at. With my own eyes, I could see these were the mountains my father would gesture and tell me stories about. I could even picture him using his hand to outline the image in his head. Considering he was between 4-5 years old when he looked at these, his description was impressive.

**BELOW: Liptovská Porúbka – House where Rozie & Michael hid**





**ABOVE: Brtkovica Mountains – Lower Tatras**

along, telling us there is someone we needed to meet. Down by the road a few people from the town had gathered to see who arrived in this big bus to their small town. We were directed to one lady in particular, Olga. Olga saw the bus and found out our family was here. She went into her house and grabbed a few photos. They were photos of my father. Olga was the daughter of the family that hid my father and grandmother. Her and her family risked their lives to make sure these Jewish strangers could keep theirs. If it was not for the heroics of this lady and her family, I most likely would not be here today.

After the war was over and before leaving Slovakia, my grandparents stayed in contact with the family and would send pictures of my father as he grew up. That time meant that much to them that over 40 years later they still kept these pictures in the family.



**ABOVE: Humenné Apartment & Storefront**

A local guide knew where the cabins were in the mountains and took a group of us up the thick trail. There was still one of the bunkers at a level a bit higher than the one that held our family. However, we were impressed that the outhouse was still standing.

As we came down the mountain, Mark and I were met by cousin Morry who hurried us

**BELOW: Brian, Olga, Mark**



We ended our stay in Slovakia as the family did 40 years earlier, in Humenné. We found the building the family bought and lived in. There was still an active store front which once housed Uncle Tibi's General Store. On top were the apartments the family lived in. Now they were being used as an office owned by a couple men who were kind enough to let us look around.

While we were standing on the street, Morry took me for a walk down the street. He asked me “if I remembered the stories my father would tell me about the big alley they would play soccer in?” Of course, I remembered and as I am telling him this, we turn the corner into what looked like a driveway in between the buildings. Morry tells me “Here it is.” I was standing in the same, not so big, ally that my 8-year old father remembered. I almost



**ABOVE: Humenné Soccer Alley**

**BELOW: Humenné High**



wished I had a ball to kick around at that moment.

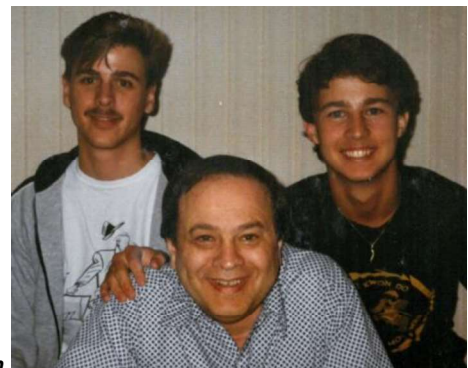
Of course, a visit to Humenné would not be complete without a visit to the most talked about place in the family, Humenné High! Just a few blocks away, it was still an active school. Kids from all ages were still running around there playing different games and enjoying

the school day. Just like in all the family stories.

For me, the only thing missing was sharing this experience with my father directly. Fortunately, I had the time with him so he could share his memories of his survival story to some extent.

However, his story was only a small fraction of our family story. After Aunt Margit passed away, I found an album of old family photos from Europe. Each person in those photos had a name and they all had a life’s story, some longer other shorter. I wanted to know who they were and what happened to all of them. I did not want their story to be forgotten. If I let that happen then the Bastard of the Holocaust got his way with our family, but we are survivors. This book is meant to be around for the next generation of survivors and hopefully the generations after that. It is our duty, the next generation of survivors, to keep these names with these faces, and these stories that go along with the faces alive. Most importantly, to share our story with others.

To my father, Michael (or Meyer as he was known in the family), I wish you could have been on this journey with me. To some degree I feel you were. Pushing me along the way over these last years of doing all this research, gathering and translating document, and interviewing family. Thank you for being the first family member to share your survivor story with me.



**Mark, Michael, Brian**



## **Chapter 1 - The Weisberger Family**

The Weisberger family came from a small village called Hrabovec (today: Hrabovec nad Laborcom), located in the Humenné district in the north-eastern part of what is now Slovakia about 40km from the Polish border. Early on this area was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until Czechoslovakia won its independence on October 28, 1918. The area would continue to teeter between being a single Czechoslovakia and separate Czech and Slovak for many years, starting with Hitler manipulating a divide in 1938 until its most recent divide after it broke from communist power in the early 1990's.

Unlike the Czech population that was employed in various industries and lived in towns, the Slovak population was more of an agrarian based economy. When economic times were tough, much of the population left Slovakia to find work in other countries.

Hrabovec was a small village of around 90 houses and population a little over 500. Like most of Slovakia, Hrabovec was primarily an agrarian society that depended mostly on its own local production. This area of Slovakia was not very industrialized so most people lived on what could be produced locally. For its size, Hrabovec had four Jewish families, which was a fair number back then. The rest of the village was comprised mainly of Catholic families. There was really no anti-Semitism amongst the villagers as the Jewish children played hand in hand with the Catholic children.

### **Filip & Miriam – the early years**



Filip was the patriarch of the family. He was born to Bernard (Dov) and Judit on 4/26/1877 in Hrabovec.

In what has only been described as a vibrant love affair, Filip married his sweetheart, Miriam Tobias. Miriam was the daughter of Tuvie & Feiga Tobias from the village of Udavské about 16km south of Hrabovec. They got married just after the turn of the century and went on to raise a family of ten

children (six boys and four girls).

The Weisberger family home was located on a fair amount of land that they farmed. They also owned and ran the General Store in the village where they sold what was produced on the farm along with a bit of everything else. Additionally, Filip worked as a lumber merchant in the village. The lumber industry was a big part of the economy in the Humenné district. Filip was

active in local politics like many business owners tended to be. He was a community leader, and as such he held a prominent position in the local town hall.

The family was raised orthodox, like most European Jews, not strictly observant but they did keep a kosher home. On Saturdays' the family would observe the Sabbath by not working and just taking it as a day of rest, which was a big deal to Filip. The children in the family played and went to school with the other catholic children in the village. All the village children would meet up in the streets to play and even study together after school.

### **The Weisberger Children**

Filip and Miriam had ten children; six boys and four girls:

Tibor, born November 25, 1904

Albert, born June 10, 1906

Vilmosh, born March 19, 1908

Elias Hermann, born January 28, 1910

Hermina, born March 1, 1912

Samuel, born March 25, 1914

Margit, born June 10, 1916

Ethel, born January 3, 1919

Bercho, born August 18, 1923

Judit, born May 1, 1928



*Vilmosh, Samuel  
Judit*

*Ethel, Samuel, Margit, Judit*



*Vilmosh, Samuel, Hermann, Tibor  
Hermina, Miriam, Bercho, Filip, Margit, Ethel*



### Albert leaving for America

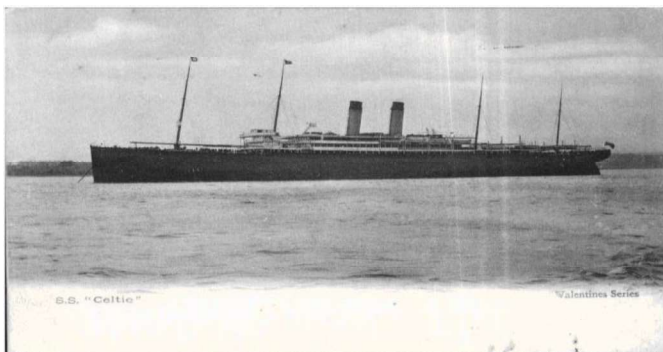


Filip was the older of two siblings. His sister, Regina (born August 1890) lived in Ublya, Slovakia with her husband Emanuel Benovic. Their brother Samuel (born March 1884), left Czechoslovakia around September 1900 to start a new life in the United States. He settled in Dunmore Pennsylvania, married Frances and started a family. They bought a building where the family lived upstairs and opened a general store on the street level. Around the spring 1921 Samuel came back to Czechoslovakia to visit his family and see how they were doing following the end of World War I. Though World War I had ended, much of the globe was dealing with a recession to some degree. In the agrarian community that Hrabovec was part of, the economy was taking a long time to recover and many were feeling the effects of the poor economy.

Filip and Miriam had 8 children in the family at this time and their finances were strained. Samuel wanted to help his brother and offered to bring one of Filip's older boys back to Scranton to help in his store. Back home in Scranton, Samuel's store was also suffering from a recession that was happening in America. Samuel knew it was cheaper to employ one of the boys and at the same time felt it would help his brother. Filip and Miriam agreed to Samuel's offer, also figuring it would give the boy a better future.

Filip and Miriam's initial idea was for younger Vilmos to go. Tibi and Albert were already helping with the family's general store and were needed there. They decided to take Tibi, Albert, and Vilmos to apply for a Visa to go to the United States. They would make their final decision after they saw who was approved.

Back in Scranton, Samuel's wife Frances was about to give birth to their son Norman. Samuel wanted to be back in America for Norman's birth so he was not willing to wait very long. Albert's Visa was the first to be approved and with Samuel not willing to wait any longer, Albert was chosen to go. So, on June 20, 1921 Albert boarded the ocean liner, RMS Celtic (II) and left Europe for America and didn't return until 1943 as a soldier in the United States Army.



*SS Celtic*



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

## RECORD OF ALIENS HELD FOR SPECIAL INQUIRY.

S. S. CELTIC WHITE STAR QUEEN arrived 8/21/21, 1921, M., from 105

No.	NAME	MANIFEST	CAUSE OF DETENTION	INVEST.	ACTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF SPECIAL INQUIRY				DEPARTMENTAL AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS	REPORTED	RELEASE
					DET.	RELE.	RELE.	RELE.			
100	WEISBERGER Albert son GAB	17	LFO Un 16	11:00	BLINDERS						
101	GILBERT Mary J. and GAB	18	LFO Un 16	11:00	DOZEN						
102	NO HOLLY Catherine										
103	OLANBY Annie and GAB	19	LFO Un 16	11:00	JOHNSTON						
104	SIGOL Laila	20	LFO Un 16	11:00	ALEXANDER						
105	ABRAHAM										
106	ABRAHAM										
107	ABRAHAM										
108	ABRAHAM										
109	ABRAHAM										
110	ABRAHAM										
111	ABRAHAM										
112	ABRAHAM										
113	ABRAHAM										
114	ABRAHAM										
115	ABRAHAM										
116	ABRAHAM										
117	ABRAHAM										
118	ABRAHAM										
119	ABRAHAM										
120	ABRAHAM										
121	ABRAHAM										
122	ABRAHAM										
123	ABRAHAM										
124	ABRAHAM										
125	ABRAHAM										
126	ABRAHAM										
127	ABRAHAM										
128	ABRAHAM										
129	ABRAHAM										
130	ABRAHAM										
131	ABRAHAM										
132	ABRAHAM										
133	ABRAHAM										
134	ABRAHAM										
135	ABRAHAM										
136	ABRAHAM										
137	ABRAHAM										
138	ABRAHAM										
139	ABRAHAM										
140	ABRAHAM										
141	ABRAHAM										
142	ABRAHAM										
143	ABRAHAM										
144	ABRAHAM										
145	ABRAHAM										
146	ABRAHAM										
147	ABRAHAM										
148	ABRAHAM										
149	ABRAHAM										
150	ABRAHAM										
151	ABRAHAM										
152	ABRAHAM										
153	ABRAHAM										
154	ABRAHAM										
155	ABRAHAM										
156	ABRAHAM										
157	ABRAHAM										
158	ABRAHAM										
159	ABRAHAM										
160	ABRAHAM										
161	ABRAHAM										
162	ABRAHAM										
163	ABRAHAM										
164	ABRAHAM										
165	ABRAHAM										
166	ABRAHAM										
167	ABRAHAM										
168	ABRAHAM										
169	ABRAHAM										
170	ABRAHAM										
171	ABRAHAM										
172	ABRAHAM										
173	ABRAHAM										
174	ABRAHAM										
175	ABRAHAM										
176	ABRAHAM										
177	ABRAHAM										
178	ABRAHAM										
179	ABRAHAM										
180	ABRAHAM										
181	ABRAHAM										
182	ABRAHAM										
183	ABRAHAM										
184	ABRAHAM										
185	ABRAHAM										
186	ABRAHAM										
187	ABRAHAM										
188	ABRAHAM										
189	ABRAHAM										
190	ABRAHAM										
191	ABRAHAM										
192	ABRAHAM										
193	ABRAHAM										
194	ABRAHAM										
195	ABRAHAM										
196	ABRAHAM										
197	ABRAHAM										
198	ABRAHAM										
199	ABRAHAM										
200	ABRAHAM										

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

## LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

ALL ALIENS arriving at a port of continental United States from a foreign port or a port of the Insular possessions of the United States, and all aliens arriving at a port of said insular possessions from a foreign port, a port of continental United States, or a port of the Insular possessions of the United States.

This (yellow) sheet is for the listing of

S. S. "CELTIC" Passengers sailing from LIVERPOOL, 11/21, 1921

No.	HEAD-TAX STATUS	NAME IN FULL	Age	Sex	Calling or occupation	Able to—	Nationality	Race or people	* Last permanent residence		The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came.	Final destination
									Country	City or town		
1	DATE	Shinele Mather	50	M	Housewife	Yes	Romanian	Rumanian	Rumanian	Brother-in-law, Herman Mundel	Brother-in-law, Herman Mundel	West Tampa
2	UNDER 16	Kino	12	M	Scholar	Yes	Romanian	Rumanian	Rumanian	Uncle, Herman Mundel	Uncle, Herman Mundel	West Tampa
3	UNDER 16	John Roy	9	M	Scholar	Yes	Romanian	Rumanian	Rumanian	Uncle, Herman Mundel	Uncle, Herman Mundel	West Tampa
4	UNDER 16	Albert	15	M	Scholar	Yes	Romanian	Rumanian	Rumanian	Uncle, Herman Mundel	Uncle, Herman Mundel	West Tampa
5	ADMITTED	Weisberger Albert	15	M	Scholar	Yes	Romanian	Rumanian	Rumanian	Uncle, Herman Mundel	Uncle, Herman Mundel	West Tampa

Ellis Island (USA) Immigration Record &  
SS. Celtic Ship Manifest

### Tibor's early beginnings

Tibor "Tibi" Weisberger was introduced to Matilda Zalmanovich by a friend. They met while visiting cousins in Michalovce, Slovakia and got married in 1932. They eventually moved to the village of Vyšná Radvaň (Now: Radvaň nad Laborcom) in the Medzilaborce District, which neighbored the Humenné District about 5km north of his family's village of Hrabovec. Tibi owned a General Store where he sold goods from farming

PHOTO: (b) Hermann Tobias, Miriam, Filip, Relli Zalmanovic, Chaya Sarah Zalmonovic (mother), Lenke, Zalmanovic, Moshe Zalmanovic (father), Matilda, Tibor, Ethel Gutman, Hugo Gutman (f) Rosie Zalmanovic, Herman, Hermina



equipment, bread & grains, dairy products, bolts of fabric, and china & crystal. Tibi's business was very successful and it allowed for him to build a house. They eventually had two daughters, Lea (1939) & Gabi (1941).

### **Vilmosh starts his family**



Like most young men at the time, Vilmosh served in the Czechoslovakian Army in the late 1920s. He was part of the 28<sup>th</sup> infantry regiment (28 Pesi Pluk). Upon completion of his service he resumed working with his father as a lumber merchant.

As Vilmosh was getting in his late 20s, he was introduced to a young woman, Rozie Weiss, 11 years his junior, from another small village about 10 miles away, called Ruská Kajňa. Rozie and Vilmosh were third cousins, but marriages like this were common between Jews in these small communities. They got married in January 1938. Soon after they also moved to Vyšná Radvaň, and had their son, Milan (aka, Michael), in 1941.



**ABOVE: Vilmosh Military Photo (white shirt)**

**RIGHT: Vilmosh & Michael**



**BELOW: Vilmosh with his lumber crew**

In moving there, he joined his oldest brother Tibor along with his wife Matilda and, also, Rozie's oldest brother Herman and his wife Gizzy. Vilmosh continued to work as a lumber merchant in the village.





### **Elias Hermann's days in Prague**

In 1934 Hermann was drafted in to the Czechoslovakian army because it was compulsory to serve for 2 years during this time. After serving his two years in Moravia, Hermann choose not to return to his family's home. He hated his time in the service and went to Prague where he lived in the Jewish Quarter.



*Hermann Military Photo (arrow)*

In 1938 after Hitler and the Nazis' occupied Czechoslovakia, the Slovak government made deals with the Nazis to keep them out of Slovakia but the Czech representatives were not as successful. In 1938 the German soldiers were becoming a much larger presence in Prague. Hermann, along with many of the Jews in the area, started to live in fear of the increased anti-Semitism and Nazi influence.

In the beginning of 1939, Hermann and some of the other Jewish boys created a group called the Beton Revisionist Zionist Organization. The group helped make arrangements for Jews to escape the area. Many went to Belgium or traveled through Vienna, unfortunately many others never made it to their destination. On April 15, 1939, Hermann, and his friend Numi feared if they didn't leave they may be killed, so they started their journey to escape the area.

### **Hermina's Immigration to Mexico**

Miriam's older sister was named Henche. Henche was married to Jacob Stern and in 1922, they decided to leave Czechoslovakia and immigrate with the rest of the Stern family to Mexico.

By 1936 there was a greater presence of German soldiers in the Humenné district. The Nazi party's propaganda machine was causing Anti-Semitism to grow in the region. In correspondence with her sister, Miriam continued to express her concerns for the family, especially the girls who were frequent targets by German soldiers. Henche offered for one of the girls to be sent to live with her and Jacob in Mexico. They would help her find a husband and start a good life.

Hermina was having increased problems with some of the German soldiers in the area and Miriam feared for her safety. Filip and Miriam decided since Hermina was the oldest of the



girls, and was not being courted by anyone, that they would accept Henche's offer. So, after obtaining a Visa, Hermina was sent to Mexico.

### **Margit's early life with Herman**



Margit was dating a boy when she first met Herman Wohl. He was immediately smitten with Margit and worked very hard courting her. Herman was the son of Lojos and Penina (nee Weinberg) Wohl from Maly Berezny, where Herman also owned the General Store in the village.



*Lojos Wohl*

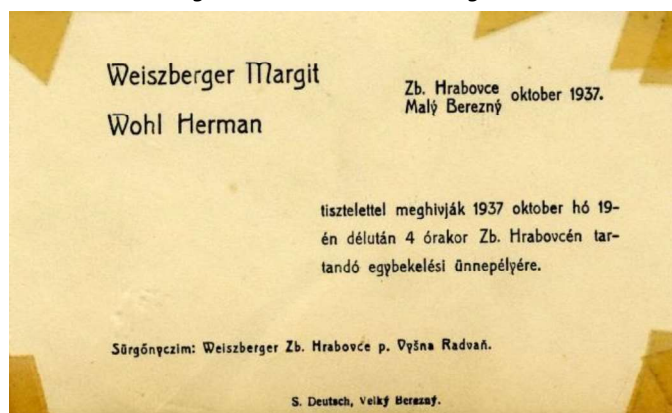
Margit played "hard to get" with Herman for a while before she finally gave in and started dating him. Ultimately Herman was older and already established, so he was a better catch than the other boy. This led to their wedding in October of 1937.

After they were married they lived in Herman's village of Maly Berezny located on the Slovak/Ukrainian border. Being a border town during this period the nationalization of the village kept changing between Slovakia, Ukraine, and Hungary with ultimate control given to Hungary during the occupation. Margit and Herman Wohl lived comfortably. Margit helped Herman run his General Store and they were very happy.

*Margit & Herman at his General Store*



*Margit & Herman Wohl Wedding invitation*



### **Filip's renewed focus on schooling and his children's future**

The older Weisberger brothers did not all stay in school long. Even though Filip did well with his business, raising a family of ten children was very hard. The older brothers dropped out of school to work and help around the house in order to support the large family. However, Filip and Miriam knew this could not continue and put a larger emphasis on education to the rest of the children. The cultural belief in Slovakia was that if one is not educated, he is not valued. If you were educated and had a profession you were assured a future and Filip wanted his children to have a future.

School was held for all the children of Hrabovec in what would be the equivalent of a one room schoolhouse. This was primary school and lasted for six years. After that you had a choice to enroll in a secondary school. To attend secondary school, you had to enroll in a school in one of the bigger cities. For those in Hrabovec that would be in Humenné. Humenné had larger schools and universities and they also had a Jewish population of around ten thousand Jews at the time.

The children traveled by train to Humenné. The train had two special cars for the students who were traveling to school. The train arrived around 7:30 in the morning at the train stop not far from the house. So, when the train whistle blew the children would go running for the train stop. Then in the evening the train would drop the children off around 5pm.

The Weisberger children that traveled to Humenné for school also had their own way of helping around the store. They would sneak merchandise on the train from Humenné to bring back and sell in the family's general store in Hrabovec. Regular transporting of merchandise to the villages cost a fair amount of money. For the students to travel by train, it was almost free for them to ride. Doing it like this was dangerous because they could be arrested for transporting merchandise, but they did what they could to help the family.

## Chapter 2 - The Weiss Family

The Weiss family lived in Ruská Kajňa located in the north-eastern part of Slovakia in the Humenné District approximately 18km from Hrabovec. The family came from a background of political power. In the early 1800's, Lyszman Weiss was appointed the Burgermeister (equivalent to Mayor or chairman of the executive council of the town) of the town by Franz Josef, who was the Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire which controlled this region.

His son Meyer Weiss chose to work as a lumber merchant in the region. Meyer was able to benefit from his father's political position by obtaining government contracts for his lumber to support local infrastructure, like providing the lumber for railroad ties.



*Meyer Weiss*

The family owned a large farm and house that provided for the rest of the town. Meyer owned a Torah scroll that was kept at the farm. On Friday nights people used to come to the farm, they would stay overnight and they would hold service Friday night and Saturday at the farm. Meyer would also act as a Hebrew tutor for the local children in the village along with his own.

Meyer had three children, Jonas, Manuel, and Hani. Before the turn of the century, Jonas and his two siblings left Slovakia for America and settled in Scranton Pennsylvania. However, after their mother Henne died, Jonas moved back to Slovakia to help his father Meyer, who was ill, run the family business.



*Jonas & Ester Weiss*

Jonas married Ester Herz sometime around 1905. After Meyer's passing, Jonas inherited the family farm from his father. He continued to own the farm, but employed others from the community to run it. By this time Jonas's focus was primarily on being a lumber merchant, at which he was very successful.

Jonas and Ester had 11 children. The children attended public school in Ruská Kajňa. The family did not live in a Jewish

community, but nonetheless the family was very orthodox. Jonas continued the tradition of his father and each Friday night and every Saturday, Jews from neighboring towns would gather in the Weiss home to celebrate Shabbat. Since there were enough children to constitute a class, a

private tutor was hired to teach all the children of the family their Jewish studies. The family lived comfortably.

Jonas did not involve himself in the politics of the village. He wanted to purely be a business man. However, to make sure he stayed in the good graces of the local mayor he would have one of the children deliver milk from the family farm to him every morning.

### **The Weiss Children**

Jonas and Ester had 11 children; 8 boys and 3 girls:

Herman, born 1907

Theodore, born 1909

Miriam, born 1911

Josef, born 1913

Regina, born 1919

Lenka, born 1922

Moritz, born 1924

Eugene, born 1927

Ferdinand, born 1929

Lazar, born 1933

Emanuel, born 1934



*The Families Together  
for Vilmosh & Rosie's  
wedding*



### **Chapter 3 - The Politics that Brought the Changes**

Hitler was in power and pushing the agenda of the Nazi party. The propaganda machines were rolling and anti-Semitism was becoming more and more prevalent. Starting in 1933 a series of Anti-Semitic laws were passed in an effort to segregate Jews from the “Aryan” society revoking Jews’ political, legal, and civil rights. This became more prevalent with the Nuremberg laws in 1935 which brought about immediate and concrete segregation of Jews from society.

By 1938 Hitler occupied Austria and six months later Czechoslovakia. By October 1938, Hitler and Slovak leaders separated the Slovaks into a separate state, giving them full autonomy. The Slovak government were fascists and allied themselves with Hitler. Bishop Josef Tiso was elected as Prime Minister of Slovakia. On March 14, 1939, the provincial government of Slovakia declared Slovakia Independent. The price for independence was a less than ideal alliance with Hitler and the Third Reich. However, Hitler had little interest in Slovakia and basically left it alone until the summer of 1944.

#### **Liquidation of Jewish Enterprises**

The liquidation of Jewish enterprises was part of the process of the “elimination of the Jews from the economic and social life”. This process started with a series of laws around 1938. The first liquidations of enterprises were carried out indirectly in a 1939 Regulation of the Slovak government which revoked around 500 trade licenses of Jewish owners of inns and bars. Later that year another 700 were revoked by yet another government regulation.

It was deemed that certain Jewish Enterprises were vital to the economic welfare of the region. Therefore, on April 25, 1940, the Slovaks adopted what was known as the “First Aryanization” Act. This act defined the conditions by which Jews were to transfer property to Non-Jewish owners. Enterprises that were not selected for Aryanization were to be liquidated. This resulted in about 229 Jewish enterprises to be liquidated. Later a Central Economic Office was established to centralize control of this process. There was no appealing these decisions, everything was final. Also, when decisions were made to liquidate a Jewish enterprise, it would be published in the newspaper at the previous owner’s expense, for their public humiliation.

This Central Economic Office decided what the liquidation price would be, yet never enforced complete payment of the decided price. In no case was the full value of the Aryanized enterprise paid. By the end of 1940, of the 12,300 Jewish enterprises that had existed in Slovakia, about 10,000 were liquidated.



One of the problems with these liquidations were that states were suffering enormous economic losses by the fact that many of the Aryanizers led their enterprises to bankruptcy. What was not thought out was the Aryanizers didn't understand how to run most of these companies they were assigned to and needed the original owners help. A decree was made that the previous owner could receive an exception by the President or Minister designating them as "Economically Important Jews". These were to be Jews who were the original business owners, or performed work activities that were not easily replaced, this vital to running that business.

The "Economically Important Jew" were given only a very small yellow star to wear with the letters "HZ" on them. They would sometimes be nicknamed the "Hlink's Jews" after the Nazi Hlinka Party that was prominent in Slovakia.

Jews that were granted this exception were able to use this to get themselves and their families out of the early detention centers in 1942 and avoiding transports. However, all this changed in the fall of 1944 when the Germans finally came into Slovakia to quash the Slovak uprising. The Slovaks gave the Germans only limited resistance. After this the Germans took over the Slovak government and restarted the Jewish transports that had previously been halted.

### **Aryanization Act's Effects on Social Life**

Soon after this Aryanization Act was expanded to exclude Jews and Jewish Associations from Slovak economic and social life. After the passage of the enabling statute, hundreds of decrees and orders were issued over a course of a year. These laws prohibited and punished any intimate relations between Aryans and Jews, this could also include simply visiting each other. To facilitate monitoring Jews, it was decreed for Jews to wear a yellow Star of David on their garments. Jews were not allowed to live on main streets, go to the movies, theaters, or coffeehouses. They could not attend exhibitions, walk in the parks, or go to the community swimming pools. Jews would not be allowed to own cameras, binoculars, bicycles, or telephones, nor were they allowed to use any of these items. All of their mail needed to be marked with a star. Jews were given a curfew and only allowed to go shopping and stay out during certain times.

### **Jewish Code**

This effort to deprive Jews of their basic civil, personal, and human rights culminated in September 1941 with the passage of the so-called "Jewish Code" and became one of the

cruellest anti-Semitic laws in modern European history. Moreover, this law based “the solution” of the Jewish question in the Slovak state on the principle of race. Soon the government started the actual preparations that led to the deportation of Slovak Jews to Nazi concentration camps.

Town by town, village by village, all the Jewish people needed to register. This registration was later used to call up these Jewish families to report to designated centers to work in the labor force. Early on the local police would take Jews to perform labor for the state. Bercho Weissberger recalls the police gathering them at centers in the morning and taking them for designated work areas. The labor was very hard and the treatment of the Jews was very cruel. For now, they would return home in the evenings.

An unforeseen consequence of the Aryanization Laws and the liquidation of Jewish businesses by the Slovak government was the financial burden these actions were on the State. With much of their property taken and inability to find gainful employment, the Jewish people had to rely on community organizations and the government for assistance. This ultimately led to the first deportations of Slovak Jews to the concentration camps.

### **How the Aryanization Laws affected the family**

Bercho Weissberger recalls the one day in 1938 when all the boys went to his brother, Tibi's house. At this time Jews were forbidden from having radios, however Tibi still kept one hidden in his basement because the family liked to hear what was happening.

They all gathered in the basement and listened to Hitler delivering a speech. Between Hitler's message and hearing the audience response, it caused panic in all of them and stuck in their memory. Hitler started “Meine Damen und Herren”, Ladies and Gentlemen, then the last thing Bercho remembers hearing was Hitler declare that “the Jews are our misfortune...” and after that he heard nothing else, only the tremendous banging. They knew then that things were serious. It was after this time in 1938 that the Aryanization Laws came into existence.

When the Aryanization Laws were passed, in 1938, it created a period of much fear and suffering in the lives of the Jewish people. Every day it seemed that a new law would come out taking away one thing or another. One law made it illegal for Jews to attend the public schools. By this time only Bercho and Judit were affected. Judit had recently started primary school in the village. However, Bercho was still attending secondary school in Humenné. He was very angry when he found out he was being expelled from school. Just because he was Jewish he no longer had the right to study.

By now Jewish families were being required to wear the yellow Jewish Star of their clothes. Jewish men were required to shave their beards. Filip was forced to shave the small beard that he had previously worn prominently. With this rise in Anti-Semitism brought on by the Nazi party, the family was scared and lived in fear. People would come through town in the night and break windows but the family could not do anything about it. They could not even protest. There were protests in some of the big cities, like Humenné but the Nazi party's spread of Hitler's Anti-Semitic propaganda was too strong.

The family businesses were all liquidated and taken under the control of local Aryanizers. Just like in most of these liquidations, the Aryanizer had no knowledge of how to run the business, or the desire. The family basically stayed running their businesses. As both Leo and Eugene Weiss recall, the family would pay these men what could amount to bribe money in order to continue running their own business. While these men would usually just take the money and spend their day drinking in the local bar. Eventually Tibi and Vilmosh Weisberger, and Herman Weiss, were able to obtain an Economically Important Jew designation which made their continued operations easier, though still under the control of the Aryanizer. Filip Weisberger and Jonas Weiss were unfortunately not able to obtain this designation at this time.

### **Theodore Weiss leaves Slovakia**

With the Aryanization laws making it hard for Jews to work and find jobs, there was conversation within the Weiss family about immigrating to the United States to try to find a better life. Instead of having the whole family pick up and leave, it was decided that Theodore would go and see if things were better in America. Theodore was the oldest sibling that was not married, making the journey easier for him over his married siblings. In 1938, he left home in Slovakia and took a path that eventually led him to Detroit, Michigan.

### **The change in gathering for family celebrations, like Bar Mitzvahs**

Bar Mitzvahs were a time when everyone from the family and the other villages that made up the congregations gathered. The Bar Mitzvah boy would lead the service, read from the Torah and that was that. Afterward a big meal was prepared for everyone that attended. This was typical before laws were enacted that affected how Jews could gather in public.

A prominent memory that Bercho Weissberger had of his Bar Mitzvah in 1936, was the effect of the newly enacted laws. His Bar Mitzvah came around the same time these laws were being enacted and there was a lot of pressure felt by groups of Jews, and non-Jews, in the community

that feared the associated consequences. The new laws also included gentiles associating with Jews. When it was time for Bercho to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah the family could only get eight of the ten Jewish men together to have a minyan because no one wanted to be in groups anymore. However, around two o'clock Bercho found two of his friends to do him a favor and complete his minyan. After a quick service Miriam brought out a bottle of vodka, some pastries and as quickly as it started, it was over.

For Eugene Weiss, his Bar Mitzvah was a few years after in 1940, and people learned to adapt differently. He recalls how everyone gathered at their home which was a large farm house that typically hosted people from neighboring villages for Shabbat service. After the Bar Mitzvah, he talked about how Ester prepared a big meal for everyone but when the meal was over, everyone left.

# Registration of Weisberger family in accordance to 1941 "Jewish Code"

## súpis židov (Registered Jews)

Obvodné notárstvo: Vyšnia Radvaň

Obec: Hrabovec

Pol. okres: Medzilaborce

I.

(Soznam B)

Číslo hárku: 1.

Bežné číslo od 1. do 8.

## Súpis Židov

podľa §-u 6. vl. nar. 198/1941 Sl. z.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bežné číslo	Meno Priezvisko	Deň, mesiac a rok narodenia	Miesto narodenia Bydlisko	Státna príslušnosť	Evid. číslo legitim. OZ	Zamestnanie (Vyplniť podľa smerníc)
1.			Ladomírová Hrabovec	slov.	-	lesný robotník
2.			Hajduböszörmény Hrabovec	maďarská	94274	robotník v poľ. hospod.majetku
3.			Hrabovec	slov.	94271	spolumajiteľ hospod.
4.			Hrabovec	slov.	94275	spolumajiteľ hospdd.
5.			Hrabovec	slov.	94260	hospod.robotník
6.			Hrabovec	slov.	94261	lesný robotník
7.	Samuel Weisberger	25.III. 1914.	Hrabovec	slov.	94255	syn pracujúci v hospdd.-
8.	Vojtech Weisberger	18.VIII. 1923.	Hrabovec	slov.	94257	syn pracujúci v hospod.

Obvodné notárstvo: Vyšnia Radvaň

Obec: Hrabovec

Pol. okres: Medzilaborce

(Soznam A)

## Súpis Židov

podľa §-u 6. vl. nar. 198/1941 Sl. z.

Číslo hárku: 1.-

Bežné číslo od 1. do 16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bežné číslo	Meno Priezvisko	Deň, mesiac a rok narodenia	Miesto narodenia Bydlisko	Státna príslušnosť	Evid. číslo legitim. OZ	Poznámka
1.	Mária Weisbergerová	5.VI. 1885.	Udavské Hrabovec	slov.	94254	
2.	Etela Weisbergerová	3.I. 1919	Hrabovec Hrabovec	slov.	94256	
3.	Julia Weisbergerová	1.V. 1928.	Hrabovec Hrabovec	slov.	-	legit.nemá
4.	Regina Moškovičová	15.V. 1900.	Veľ.Berezné Hrabovec	slov.	-	legit.nemá



Economically Important Jew Registration for Vilmosh and Tibor Weisberger after Liquidation.

"Local organization Hlinka's Slovak People's Party in Vyšná Radvaň, Medzilaborce District.

Report

Economically Important Jew."

Miestna org.Hlinkovej slovenskej ľudovej strany vo Vyšnej Radvani ,

okres Medzilaborce.

V ý k a z

hospodársky dôležitých Židov .

*Lipech*  
predseda.

  
MLIEKOVÁ SLOVENSKÁ ĽUDOVÁ STRANA  
Miestna organizácia: VYŠNÁ RADVAŇ, okres Medzilaborce

*Robitník*  
org.referent.

Bež. čís.	M e n o :	zamest- nanie:	Bydlisko :	Zamestnávateľ:	Poznámka:
1.			Radvaň č. 1.	Juraj Svätý, obchod drevom Michalovce.	
2.			-	-,,-	
3.			Radvaň 22.	Ján Hnát, obchod drevom Vyšná Radvaň.	
4.			-	-,,-	
5.			Radvaň 5.	Dr.Šimon Kalfus, z.št.obv.lek. Vyšná Radvaň.	
6.			-	Ministerstvo vnútra Bratislava.	
7.	Viliam Weisberger	manip. drevom	Vyšná Radvaň č. 108.	Ján Mlej, obchod drevom Vyšná Radvaň.	
8.	Teodor Weisberger	náku- povač	Vyšná Radvaň č. 95.	Michal Kolesár, obchod s mieš. tovarom Vyšná Radvaň.	
9.			Radvaň 16.	Fa. Svoboda, obchod drevom Humenné.	

#### **Chapter 4 - Herman Weisberger's flight from Slovakia**

*(In his own words from a letter Herman wrote to his family. This starts after he chose to leave Prague. Map of his journey in Appendix I.)*

I travelled back into Slovakia to my parent's home where I explained all that was going on. My parents reluctantly granted me permission to leave Slovakia. My mother gave me \$1 and a prayer book before I started a journey that eventually took me to London.

With a young man who had knowledge of the borders of Czechoslovakia and Poland, the next day with lots of tears and sorrow I left my dear parents and brothers and sisters to a destination unknown. One of my brothers, Sam, came with us to the border and waited on the Slovak side until I messaged that we were ok, and the crossing was ok.

When in Poland we marched through a forest to the nearest village all night, and made further arrangements to get to a place called Humuliuk. To get to this place we had to hide in a cart full of straw covered over so not to be seen in case the Polish Police would arrest us. We reached the place with fear and blistered feet. We were tired, dirty and had second thoughts to return. I asked myself, "Why I have to hide in a cart full of straw, I have not harmed anyone. I am not a murderer. Why?"

The day I shall not forget was when we got to the village and knocked on the door of a Jewish family. It was about 4 or 5 o'clock on a Friday afternoon. A young girl about 16 or 17 opened the door. She called her father telling him that two young men were asking if they can come in. When seeing us he closed the door on us afraid in case somebody had noticed strangers in the village. I begged him to let us have a glass of water, and said I am Jewish. His tone immediately changed. He opened the door and gave us a good look. After talking to me, he came over and asked me to come in, saying most wonderful words. His lips trembled. His words came painfully saying to me your name is Weisberger. I jumped at the man I never saw in my life. Asking him from where do you know my name? After a few minutes, we became calmer and he told me that he knows my dear father and he used to do lots of business with him.

His hospitality was marvelous. We had some water and washed our feet and plastered my blisters. We had a marvelous Friday night meal, lokshen and chicken soup.

The girls gave us a route where to go. She took us to the next village and made the necessary arrangements for us to reach a Jewish farm, about 10 - 12 miles away. With our new guide, we got there.

The farmer had two sons and two daughters. We stayed there for one day until one of the sons made arrangements with the bus company to take us to the station. The bus conductor had this

instruction: "if danger, do not stop, the code was "full up". The conductor gave us two tickets to Katowice about 25 miles from the farm.

Arriving in Katowice, we had information that a committee of refugees were based there. We managed to find the offices, where we were given a friendly welcome and registered with permission to stay in Poland until necessary. We were given all details and instructions where to get our meals and bed. Katowice was a fairly large town with a population of 40% Jews. I had a previous knowledge of poverty at home and in Hungary, but here I could not believe my eyes. The committee was working hard to get everybody away as soon as possible. After about 8 to 10 days, one of the committee asked me to come into the office. Arriving there I had a terrible shock, as he told me that I was a Zionist and a visa would be hard to obtain. But I had people in the committee who were on my side. One morning one of my friends gave me the sign that I was going. I could not believe that miracle.

I was on a tram to Gdynia, the Polish port, where all the people got their destination fixed. There were about 40 young people my age who were put on the tram to get to Gdynia. Everybody was in heaven to get away from the front line. Everything was fine until we reached the port for embarkation on a luxury liner. Everybody but my name was called. An English official was in charge of supervision of the transport. He came over and assured me that there had been a mistake and the next transport will be in a few days. Another English official gave me all encouragement and told me not to worry. She put me in a hotel near the port and asked me to stay indoors all the time, but she would visit me daily for my meals. She gave me 5 Zlotes (polish money) for cigarettes every day.

After 2 days, she paid me a visit in the hotel, telling me that the day is here, I was to embark at about 10 or 12 o'clock. She personally took me in her car to the port. I started to have some reservation if she was German. As it happened, I was right and she was. There were a lot of Fifth Column spies from Germany everywhere.

The Big Day arrived. I was put on a luxury liner travelling from Poland to Sweden (Gothenburg). There were a lot of Czech boys I knew from Prague, so it was like home again. The lady who saw me off in the Polish port was very glad to see me go safely, and gave me a few Shillings to remember her by.

So, the liner started off to an unknown destination. I was glad to get away from the troubles that I had seen everywhere. The liner was a dream, full of Turkish delight food, drinks, salmon, chicken and every luxury on earth. My thoughts were not here, because I had left my parents, brothers and sisters probably starving by now.

The journey to Sweden lasted one and a half days. Arriving in Gothenburg port, we were transferred to a cattle boat to go to England. It was something that I shall never forget, sleeping

on a bunk down in the boat was something that I never thought after the luxury we had before. The journey to England was rough, high seas, sickness and all the good food went into the sea! The captain of the ship assured us that this was an emergency so when we get to England - Tilbury Docks, it would be better, and we will be treated like humans.

The 30 to 40 young men were taken to the Immigration Department for registration, every one of us received a booklet giving all the rules and regulations in England, what you can do and what not to do. My thoughts went back to Poland, thinking how everybody was waiting for the day for departure. Here we were, in the golden land of England, every one of us was vetted by Scotland Yard, questions after questions and a Passport/visa that said that we could stay in the United Kingdom as long as we kept within the law.

After all the investigations, we were put on a red double-decker bus via London, we arrived at Westbourne Terrace, near Paddington. We were given a meal and 5 Shillings (25p) for toiletries and cigarettes. The place that we arrived at was a large school, dirty and never used before, but it had showers, so this was the first thing that I had in England, the golden land of freedom. After settling down on mattresses on the floor we were glad to have a good night's sleep. The regulations were very strict. No one was allowed to go out after 9.00 pm, so it was like prison again.

After about 10 - 12 days, some of us were sent to Clacton-On-Sea for a sweetener. That was my first glance of the sea. We had pocket money given weekly, 5 Shillings. By the way, we arrived in England on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1939. Work was not allowed, only by a special permit; that was to protect the British workers. We spent 15 days in Clacton and after that we came back to London to the Czech Head Office and sorted out our qualifications and had to wait until we were sent to work on important but not secret work. We did farming and heavy work that the British workers were not keen to do.

After a few weeks we were transported to Kent, to a large school where we started schooling and having English lessons. It was strict schooling every day for 4 to 6 hours, which was welcomed by all of us. The atmosphere was good and we had lots of fun because all of us were the same age, between 25 to 30. We had organized sing songs, dancing and quizzes. But you know all good things come to an end.

When war was declared (3 September 1939) we all had to do some war work. Some of the boys were sent to make ammunition, some to do forestry and some farming, but only by permission of the Foreign Office. The reason was lots of 'Fifth Column' agents penetrated our camps by the Gestapo. They did not know who was ok or who was not. I was given a clear sheet with another 4 fellows and we were sent for farm work.



I can still visualize the farmer's wife, who came to take us to the farm, in Chipping Norton in Oxford. She was one of those old fashion ones in a straw hat. We were given a cottage on the farm, far from civilization with no TV, just a small radio, but with plenty of rabbits in the scullery for food. We worked on the farm for 6 to 8 hours a day the rest of the time was spent having English lessons. We had plenty of exercise and books. We had permission to go to Oxford on Saturdays so we made friends to visit.

The farming holiday did not last long. We were asked by the Czech Committee to pack our bags and were sent to London headquarters. We were sent for forestry work to Somerset. Here we had about 40 to 50 people in a school. That was the best place to stay because it was far away from the bombs, so we did not even know that the war was on. I was paid 48 Shillings for 36 hours work the rest of the time we had lessons in reading and writing that lasted until the end of the war.

The rest of my story was full of disappointments, during my stay in London. I had to struggle for a few more years till I matured in the English language. I still have lots to say but that was in freedom. I never had to worry that someone would come and take me away. The Czech Council wanted to send me back, but my Naturalization stopped that.

Herman stayed in London after the war was over. He eventually met and married Mena and had a son, Philip.



*Herman & Mena Weisberger*

## **Chapter 5 - The 1942 Family Deportations**

In 1942, due to the financial burden the Jewish people were becoming on the Slovak State as a result of the Aryanization laws, the Slovak government reached out to the German government to see if they would be willing to accept the Slovak Jews to join their workforce. Heinrich Himmler reached a decision that the German Reich would be willing to accept the Slovak Jews for the price of 500 marks, as a “relocation fee” and every Jew would have to divest their Slovak citizenship. This was to include all Jews except those that were granted work permits by the ministries or those with Economically Important Jew exception granted by the Slovak President.

Around May of 1942, shortly after Passover, the German government, in conjunction with the Slovak representatives, instructed the local police of various villages in the Humenné District to gather the registered Jews and send them by train to the town of Poprad. The local police had lists of the Jews in the villages from the forced registration as part of the “Jewish Code” legislation passed from the Second Aryanization Act in 1941. They told the Jews they were being sent to “join Hitler’s work force” for the next six weeks. This included the Weisberger family village of Hrabovec, as well as the Weiss family in the village of Ruská Kajňa.

By this time, Tibi & Vilmosh Weisberger, as well as Herman Weiss living in Vyšná Radvaň, had already received Economically Important Jew status that prevented them from having to report to forced labor with the rest of the family.

Before reporting to the work force in Poprad, Filip & Miriam Weisberger stopped in to Vyšná Radvaň to visit their grandchildren and say good bye to the family. Tibi offered to go too so the family could all be together and take care of each other. However, Miriam must have had some kind of feeling. Miriam took Tibi’s wife Matilda aside and told her not to ever entertain such thoughts. She warned Matilda to make sure the family did anything to stay in Vyšná Radvaň such as pay off the sheriff and village officials to stay in their homes as long as they will allow the families to remain. For Tibi & Vilmosh, this would be the last time the family would visit.

The Weisberger and Weiss families took trains from their respective villages across to Poprad, approximately 160km west of the villages. They checked into a Detention Center that was set up in abandoned army barracks located near the train tracks. Each family was able to pick their own area so they could stay together. The conditions were not horrible. They were able to keep their belongings, they were given food and they could walk around freely, but only if they stayed in the gated area. They were treated well, however if anyone that tried to go beyond the gates or caught passing anything through the gate they were beaten.

From the Detention Center in Poprad, Jonas Weiss was able to get word to the family in Vyšná Radvaň explaining what was happening in the Detention Center and asked them to start finding

a way to help get them out. Vilmosh and Tibor Weisberger, along with Herman Weiss, started the arduous task of obtaining the appropriate documentation to get the families released.

To start, Vilmosh, Tibor, and Herman petitioned and bribed various government officials to be able to obtain this "Economically Important Jew" designation for their fathers. Vilmosh and Tibor Weisberger had previously been able to obtain the government documentation for the "Economically Important Jew" designations when their business was being liquidated as part of the Aryanization law enforcement. However, the designation was never pursued for their aging father Filip.

Around the same time the boys also became aware that if Jews could show that they converted to Catholicism prior to 1938 they were also exempt from the deportations. They worked on convincing a local town priest, through a series of bribes, to forge baptismal records that would say they had converted to Catholicism prior to 1938. These conversion papers would aid them in their efforts to receive an official pardon from the deportations from government officials. Tibi and Vilmosh obtained the conversion papers, but were not successful at obtaining the government documents that would pardon the rest of the family before the Weisberger family was put on the transports.

On June 12, 1942, the Weisberger family was put on Transport VII designated for the labor camps in Lublin. To this day records have not been found to confirm exactly what fate befell Filip, Miriam, Etela and Julia after they were put on the transport in Poprad. However, this is what Bercho recalls: after the train left Poprad it eventually pulled into the Katowice station in Poland. While he and his brother Samuel were left on the transport, the rest of the family was taken off the transport at Katowice. Bercho and Samuel were headed to the Labor Camps, but their parents were too old and girls were not being sent to these labor camps. Bercho and Samuel were crushed because they were unable to hug or say goodbye to their parents or sisters. This was the last time Bercho and Samuel would see them.

*"They loaded us into the train cars, but this time in freight cars. So many people, I don't know how many, 100 people, I don't know... In a few hours, not twenty, no it was 14 or 15 hours that we were in the freight cars. Suddenly, we reached a station. The train stopped. I don't want to talk about this because there is no point in talking about the separation, the good-byes. Where we are going from the station, we do not know. Terrifying. My parents and everyone crying. We reached a station in Poland. Through the peephole we saw that the station was called Katowice. Katowice is the second city of Poland. The train stopped and suddenly we heard tremendous screams. All of the men from 15 to 50, stay in the train cars. Everyone was to exit. The screams. The banging started. They took my parents. Only my sisters were there to help them. I wasn't lucky enough to embrace my parents. They stayed in Katowice and I never saw them again."*

What happened to Filip, Miriam and the girls after they were taken off the transport is unclear at this point. No official records have been uncovered to date. There was a Jewish ghetto established in Katowice where they could have been taken to for a while. It is also possible they could have been marched to Auschwitz/Birkenau after leaving the transport, or even put on a subsequent transport to Auschwitz/Birkenau. There are certain records and eye witness testimonies that tell the family may have eventually been taken to and killed at a mass grave near the woods in the back of Auschwitz/Birkenau, however no official records confirming this have been found, yet. What is known is Samuel and Bercho continued to the labor camps and were transported to Lublin, Poland.

Herman Weiss was able to obtain papers for his father in time. Within hours of the Weiss family being put on the transport list (the same list as the Weisberger family), Herman was able to produce these documents and, along with substantial bribes to guards, the Weiss family was removed from this transport list (as shown by the strike out of the official document). Unfortunately, this exemption only worked for Jonas, Ester, and the children that were under 15 years of age. They were told that the three older children, Josef, Lenka, and Moshe, would still have to report for their six-week labor assignment.

Records show that Josef, Lenka, and Moshe were put on Transport 49 on June 20, 1942 that took them to Auschwitz. Ester Weiss truly believed her three children were going to the labor force and would be back in 6 weeks as she was told. She even continued to send packages to her children long after they were due home, unaware that they had already been killed in Auschwitz and would never return home.

Almost a month later on July 25, 1942, Jonas received his official pardon for him and the rest of his family, granting his "Economically Important Jew" status and declaring they were not subject to deportations. This finally led to their release from the Detention Center.

After leaving Poprad the Weiss family returned to Ruská Kajňa where they found that their home had been looted and destroyed. Jonas made the decision that it was safer for the whole family to be together and relocated to Vyšná Radvaň where Herman and the remaining Weisberger family was already established. Jonas paid the local police in Vyšná Radvaň for the privilege of saying in a house that had been previously occupied by Jews who were deported.

The families stayed in Vyšná Radvaň from 1942 until March 1944, where they cautiously went on with their business and survived day to day. By November 1942, the deportation of Jews from Slovakia had stopped after Pope Pius XII warned the Slovak Prime Minister, Bishop Josef Tiso, of the rumors he was hearing that the Jews he was selling to Germany for labor were mostly being sent to their deaths.

## 355

Číslo listu: VII.

160

42 VII 3

TRANSPORT PREVZATÝ  
dne 7/VII 1942

S.O. Václav Jarmak

Velitelstvo koncentračního  
střediska zločinnů  
v POBRŽDĚ

Místní úřad v Brně



Weisberger/Weiss – Poprad Transport List

Veliteľstvo koncentračného  
strediska Židov  
V POPRADE

4099

Poprad, dňa 15. júna 1942.

č. 59/1942.

cc: VII. transport z Popradu-  
zaslanie soznamov.

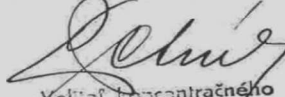
Ministerstvo vnútra oddel. 14

Prílohy: 6.

B r a t i s l a v e .

V prílohe predkladám Vám štvornásobný soznam VII. transportu Židov  
odposlaných z Popradu dňa 12. júna 1942, veliteľom transportu bol hl. d. zást.  
šand. Franta. Tretí exemplár soznamu je potvrdený o prevzatí v Ríši a k tomu  
prípejený dvojnásobný soznam proviantu - potvrdený. /1000 Židov/

N a s t r á n i

  
Veliteľ koncentračného  
strediska Židov

MINISTERSTVO VNÚTRA	
Došlo dňa	17. Juni 1942
Č.j.	14-D4-700-18

(translation)

Command Center  
Concentration of Jews in Poprad  
June 1942

Poprad, day 15,

:59/1942

Transport VII from Poprad  
Submission list

Section 14 of the Ministry of Interior

Attachments: 6

Bratislava

The Annex presents you a list in quadruplicate, Transport VII of Jews sent from Poprad on 12 June 1942, the commander of the transport [hl. d. zást. šand. Franta] A third copy of the list is an acknowledgment of receipt in the Reich when it attached a list in duplicate rations - confirmed. /1000 Jews/

On guard!

11. 3959

VII. Transport aus Poprad.

401.	✓	Weisz	Jonas	25.12.32.	Ruska Krajina	Kaufmann	F	
402.	✓		Ester	6.10.86.	Hrabovce	Haushalt	F	
403.	✓		Jozef	6.5.13.	Ruská Kajňa	Kaufmann	A	
404.	✓		Jenka	12.2.22.	" "	Haushalt	F	
405.	✓		Moric	8.3.24.	" "	Kaufmann	A	
406.	✓		Eugen	20.5.27.	" "	Student	K	
407.	✓		Ferdinand	23.9.29.	" "	"	K	
408.	✓		Lázár	14.11.31.	" "	"	K	
409.	✓		Emanuel	24.4.34.	" "	"	K	
410.	✓	✓	Regi	12.2.38.	Szentes	Kind	K	
411.	✓	✓	Adolf	22.11.01.	Vola Michová	Arbeiter	A	
412.	✓	✓	Polster	Jakub	21.5.03.	Ruská Poruba	Kaufmann	A
413.	✓	✓		Anna	12.4.03.	Varichovce	Haushalt	F
414.	✓	✓		Hermin	1.1.28.	Ruská Poruba	Studentin	F
415.	✓	✓		Irena	7.3.30.	" "	"	K
416.	✓	✓		Ernest	6.5.32.	" "	Kind	K
417.	✓	✓		Emil	24.8.33.	" "	"	K
418.	✓	✓		Alica	3.6.38.	" "	"	K
419.	✓	✓	Weissberger	Fülöp	26.4.75.	Hrabovce	Kaufmann	-
420.	✓	✓		Mária	5.7.83.	Udovské	Haushalt	F
421.	✓	✓		Samuel	25.3.14.	Hrabovce	Landwirt	A
422.	✓	✓		Etela	3.1.19.	"	Haushalt	F
423.	✓	✓		Vojtech	18.8.23.	"	Landwirt	A
424.	✓	✓		Julia	1.5.29.	"	Haushalt	F
425.	✓	✓	Friedmann	Alexander	15.2.10.	Varichovce	Landwirt	A
426.	✓	✓		Eva	3.3.03.	Snina	Haushalt	F
427.	✓	✓		Edita	7.10.33.	Varichovce	Kind	K
428.	✓	✓		Božena	3.1.35.	"	"	K
429.	✓	✓	Wäzen	Rizi	5.5.66.	Snina	Haushalt	F
430.	✓	✓		Terézia	10.8.10.	"	Landwirtin	F
431.	✓	✓	Durchschlag	Ignác	5.5.76.	Repejov	Kaufmann	-
432.	✓	✓		Hermin	5.5.97.	Zavada	Haushalt	F
433.	✓	✓		Eugen	6.9.22.	Repejov	Landwirt	A
434.	✓	✓		Helena	4.8.29.	"	Studentin	K
435.	✓	✓		Fanni	4.8.31.	"	Kind	K
436.	✓	✓	Friedmann	Léni	29.10.72.	Krásny Brod	Haushalt	F
437.	✓	✓		Pinkas	9.6.10.	Rokytnovce	Landwirt	A
438.	✓	✓	Wlück	Helena	13.2.08.	"	Haushalt	F
439.	✓	✓	Grünfeld	Rachel	24.2.66.	Bystra	Kaufmannin	F
440.	✓	✓		Hermann	24.2.01.	Ravany	Kaufmann	A
Ersatznummer:								
401.	✓	✓	Kögel	Eugen	13.XII.73	Prešov	Kaufmann	A
402.	✓	✓		Dora	10.VI.76	"	Haush.	F
403.	✓	✓		Bercho	13.III.10	"	Kaufmann	A
404.	✓	✓		Barbora	10.I.10	"	Haush.	F
405.	✓	✓		Edita	3.V.42	"	Kind	K
406.	✓	✓	Stern	Perl	16.II.85	Limanova	Bäcker	A
407.	✓	✓		Heinrich	17.XII.06	"	"	A
408.	✓	✓		Ružena	4.VII.13	Osiek	Haush.	F
409.	✓	✓		David	9.X.10	Limanova	"	F
410.	✓	✓		Lily	12.XII.22	Kisvárdá	Haush.	K

401-410: Weiss family was removed from this transport with forged Baptismal papers and "Economically Important Jew" designation.

419-424: Weissberger family. Samuel & Bercho (Vojtech) sent to Majdanek Labor camp, rest to Katowice ghetto then Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

**“Economically Important Jew” designation issued for Jonas Weiss by Ministry of Economy**

O p i s

----- P r e z i d i u m   M i n i s t e r s t v a   H o s p o d á r s t v a . -----

Císlo: Prez-A-100/4381/1942. V Bratislave, dňa 25.VII.1942.

----- R o z h o d n u t i e -----

Na základe § 2 odseku 2. ústavného zákona zo dňa 15.mája 1942.č.68/1942 Sl. zák.o vystahovaní Židov uznáva Ministerstvo hospodárstva za potrebné ponechať Žida Jónáš Weisz, ----- narodeného dňa XII.1882 ----- bytom v Ruska Kajňa výkonného poľnohospodára v hospodárskom živote Slovenska. ----- Vzhľadom na ustanovenie § 2.odseku 3 ústavného zákona č. 68/1942, Sl.z. vynatie zpod vystahovania platí aj na m a n ž e l k u Esteru ----- narodenú r. 1886 a na maloleté deti: -----

1./ Eugen -----	nar. -----	r. 1927.
2./ Ferdinand -----	nar. -----	r. 23.IX.1929
3./ Lázár -----	nar. -----	r. 14.XI.1931.
4./ Emanuel -----	nar. -----	r. 24.V. 1934.

Rozhodnutie platí až do odvolania .-----

Následkom toho nemá /nemajú/ byť menovaný jeho manželka a maloleté deti vystahovaní z územia Slovenskej republiky, pokiaľ je v platnosti toto rozhodnutie a jeho /ich/ ponechaní v hospodárskom živote.-----

Opis tohoto rozhodnutia dostane: -----

1./ Ministerstvo vnútra a -----
2./ Okresný /Policejné riaditeľstvo/ úrad v Medzilaborce.-----

----- N a s t r á ž ! -----

Za ministra nečitateľný podpis v.r.      kulaté razitko Ministerstva hospodárstva

Bávka za úradný výkon As 2269 18

Tento strana uplny hotovený odpis uplny  
súhlasí doslovné s prvopisom na jednom uplny  
hárku a opatreným kolkom za uplny  
Zo súdnej kancelárie okresného súdu v Michalovciach  
odd. I. dňa 6. AUG. 1942 19

COPY

Presidium of the Ministry of Economy

Number: Prez-A-100/4381-1942. In Bratislava on 25.VII.1942

Decision

Based on paragraph 2 of the Constitutional Act on 15 May 1942. C.68/1942. The eviction of the Jews recognizes the Ministry of Economy as necessary to maintain the Jew Jonas Weisz, ----- born on XII.1882 ----- resides in Ruska Kajňa, powerful farmer in the economic life of Slovakia. —

Subject to the provisions 2. Paragraph 3 constitutional law c.68/1942, Exemption from eviction also applies to the wife Ester --- born 1886 and to minor children:

1. Eugen – born - 1927
2. Ferdinand – born - 23.IX.1929
3. Lazar – born – 24.V.1934
4. Emanuel – 24.V.1934

Decision in force until further notice.

As a consequence, has / have / to be named his wife and minor children eviction from the Slovak Republic, where this is in force this decision and its / their/ left in economic life.

Gets a copy of this decision:

1. The Ministry of Interior and
2. District office in Medzilaborce.



Poprad Transportation log to Auschwitz for Joseph & Moritz Weiss

89 *Lebensversicherung*

Konzentrationslager Auschwitz  
Abteilung II.

Auschwitz, den 21. Juni 1942.

Z u g a n g e a m 20. Juni 1942:  
eingeliefert aus der S l o w a k e i .

Lfd. Nr.	Haftart	Häftl. Nr.	N a m e	Vorname	Geb. Dat.	Geb. Ort	Beruf
1.	Sch. Jude	39923	Guttmann	Siegfried	9. 8. 06	Wien	Zuschneider
2.	"	39924	Kugler	Emil	1. 8. 97	Stupava	Kaufmann
3.	"	39925	Rosenfeld	Leopold	21. 7. 87	Rozvadze	Kaufmann
4.	"	39926	Horovitz	Desider	23. 7. 93	Dunajska-Streda	Kaufmann
5.	"	39927	Gonda	Moritz	13. 7. 94	Gelines	Techniker
6.	"	39928	Gonda	Paul	23. 4. 24	Bratislava	Installateur
7.	"	39929	Ladanyi	Kmerich	20. 9. 95	Hadssek	Elektromont.
8.	"	39930	Steiner	Jakob	26. 2. 89	Topoleany	Schuhmacher
9.	"	39931	Platzner	Robert	14. 4. 89	Dolny-Kubin	Kaufmann
10.	"	39932	Spitzer	Markus	11. 2. 80	Hajdubagos	Spengler

93

Lfd. Nr.	Haftart	Häftl. Nr.	N a m e	Vorname	Geb. Dat.	Geb. Ort	Beruf
221.	Sch. Jude	40143	Gross	Richard	16. 3. 85	Stara-Bystrien	Bäckergesh.
222.	"	40144	Freimann	Ignatz	5. 3. 86	Novo-Mesto a/Vaag	Kaufmann
223.	"	40145	Deucht	Tibor	8. 7. 18	Ilava	Küschmer
224.	"	40146	Horakovits	Arpad	6. 9. 17	Vlachovo	Tischler
225.	"	40147	Hajda	Max	26. 8. 12	M. Ostrau	Tapezierer
226.	"	40148	Kaufmann	David	20. 4. 03	Mala-Bytea	Techn. Angest.
227.	"	40149	Lissauer	Leopold	6. 5. 98	Tiszalok	Slinger
228.	"	40150	Frank	Josef	6. 5. 13	Ruska-Kajna	Landerbeiter
229.	"	40151	Weiss	Moritz	8. 3. 24	Ruska-Kajna	Landerbeiter
230.	"	40152	Weiss	Moritz	8. 3. 24	Ruska-Kajna	Schneidm.
231.	"	40153	Zucker	Isaak	21. 11. 21	Bumenne	Fleischergesh.
232.	"	40154	Kisler	Marcell	17. 4. 89	Hlohovec	Landwirt
233.	"	40155	Stessel	Karl	28. 8. 94	Wien	Händler
234.	"	40156	Schwartz	Josef	3. 8. 14	Papoc	Stricker
235.	"	40157	Metzen	Abraham	14. 5. 91	Pucak	Kantor
236.	"	40158	Eckstein	Adolf	8. 4. 00	Bratislava	Kaufmann
237.	"	40159	Hiamant	Alexander	28. 3. 00	Spacinee	Landwirt
238.	"	40160	Weiss	Adalbert	30. 11. 96	Sucha a/Tarnau	Maschinenverf.
239.	"	40161	Frey	Alexander	10. 4. 10	Topoleany	Friseur
240.	"	40162	Stiasany	Paul	10. 1. 32	Brezno	Schneider
241.	"	40163	Löwy	Hilwig	21. 7. 99	Helpe	Kaufmann
242.	"	40164	Löwy	Kolton	20. 10. 10	Trenton	Bäcker
243.	"	40165	Löwy	Adalbert	10. 9. 06	Trenton	Bäcker
244.	"	40166	Fuchs	Phibian	24. 8. 18	Ruska-Vels	Arbeiter
245.	"	40167	Berger	Adalbert	20. 12. 07	Lubietova	Spengler
246.	"	40168	Jagen	Maximilian	10. 1. 17	Tskily	Arbeiter

Joseph Weiss Death Record from Auschwitz  
8 August, 1942 – Heart weakness from Pneumonia

Nr. 18701/1942

695

C

Auschwitz, den 11. August 1942

Der Arbeiter Josef Weiss

mosaisch

wohnhaft Buska-Kajna Nr. 19, Kreis Medzilaborce, Slowakei

ist am 8. August 1942 um 11 Uhr 35 Minuten

in Auschwitz, Kasernenstrasse verstorben.

Der Verstorbene war geboren am 6. Mai 1913

in Buska-Kajna

(Standesamt Nr.)

Vater: Jonas Weiss, wohnhaft in Buska-Kajna

Mutter: Estera Weiss geborene Herz, wohnhaft in Buska-Kajna

Der Verstorbene war nicht verheiratet

Eingetragen auf mündliche – schriftliche Anzeige des Arztes Doktor der Medizin Meyer in Auschwitz vom 8. August 1942

Der Anzeigende

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und unterschrieben

Die Übereinstimmung mit dem  
Erstbuch wird beglaubigt.

Auschwitz, den 11. 8. 1942

Der Standesbeamte  
In Vertretung

Der Standesbeamte  
In Vertretung  
Quakernack

Todesursache: Herzschwäche bei Pneumonie

Eheschliessung des Verstorbenen am in

(Standesamt Nr.)

Archiwum Muzeum Auschwitz / Auschwitz Museum's Archive



Mortiz Weiss Death Record from Auschwitz  
20 August, 1942 – Heart Failure

Nr. 22810/1942 (270) C<sup>1</sup>

Auschwitz, den 29. August 1942

Der Landerbeiter Moritz Weiss

mosaisch

wohnhaft Ruska Kajňa 19, Kreis Medzilaborce, Slowakei

ist am 20. August 1942 um 06 Uhr 05 Minuten

in Auschwitz, Kasernenstrasse verstorben

Der Verstorbene war geboren am 8. März 1924

in Ruska Kajňa

(Standesamt Nr.)

Vater: Jonas Weiss, wohnhaft in Ruska Kajňa

Mutter: Estera Weiss geborene Herz, wohnhaft in Ruska Kajňa

Der Verstorbene war nicht verheiratet

Eingetragen auf schriftliche Anzeige des Arztes Doktor der Medizin Meyer in Auschwitz vom 20. August 1942

Anzeigende

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und unterschrieben

Die Übereinstimmung mit dem Erstbuch wird beglaubigt.

Auschwitz, den 29. 8. 1942

Der Standesbeamte In Vertretung

Der Standesbeamte In Vertretung

Todesursache: Versagen des Herzens und Kreislaufes

Erbeschliessung des Verstorbenen am in

(Standesamt Nr.)

Archiwum Muzeum Auschwitz / Auschwitz Museum's Archive

## **Chapter 6 - Smuggling Fellow Jews to Switzerland**

Even as the deportations were ending towards the end of 1942, Anti-Semitism was still growing and the Aryanization laws were getting more stringent. While living in Vyšná Radvaň, the Weisberger/Weiss families could operate with a little more freedom due to their papers. However, for many other Jews in the Medzilaborce district life was very hard and there was increased fear for their lives from the deportations. Even more so, right across the border in Poland. Polish Jews were in constant fear and would smuggle themselves across to Medzilaborce for refuge since the Slovaks were stopping their deportations.

Around September 1942, just over the Slovak side of the border in the town of Medzilaborce, was a Jewish man who was part of the lumber trade. He organized a network of his fellow lumber merchants to help smuggle Jews from the Medzilaborce district and Polish Jews from just across the border, to the neutral country of Switzerland. Jews fearing deportation were taken by wagons at night to different people within this network, who would then help smuggle them to the neutral country of Switzerland.

From his work as lumber merchants and as a fellow Jew in the district, Vilmosh Weisberger had a relationship with this man and was recruited into the network. Medzilaborce was only around 10 -15 kilometers away from Vyšná Radvaň so as part of this network Vilmosh would use his relationships to aid in this campaign.

Charcoal was a primary product sold by lumber merchants and was exported from the Medzilaborce district to Nazi Germany as well as to “neutral” Switzerland. These charcoal cars were generally not filled all the way leaving room for false compartments to be set up that could disguise hidden Jews as they were transported to Switzerland. Vilmosh was very friendly with the man who ran the rail yard in Vyšná Radvaň from his years of transporting lumber products. He would make financial arrangements for the yard operator to look the other way and seal these cars without checking them before they left the train yard. If a car was sealed it was typically not checked again at other stations down the line.

Up to 10 people at a time would be hidden in the basements of the homes the Weisberger and Weiss families living in Vyšná Radvaň. This would go on for a few days until provisions could be gathered and Vilmosh had everything set up in the charcoal cars. Sometimes it was just waiting for the correct train with the charcoal car to be attached. Sometimes a train would arrive with charcoal cars of Jews attached at an earlier stop, typically Medzilaborce.

Before the trains were scheduled to leave Vyšná Radvaň, the group of people would be smuggled into the train car and sealed in. The people were given specific instructions to count five train stops and by the sixth stop they would be in Switzerland where it would be safe to get out. The total journey could last up to 11 days.

Upon exiting the charcoal car in Switzerland many were arrested by the Swiss police. Some were interrogated and threatened to be sent back to the Nazis. However, in almost all the cases the Jews could seek asylum and were placed in internment camps for fugitives. Here they were able to seek help to start a new life, contact family overseas, and also try to continue to help other relatives still left in Nazi controlled states. While the Swiss had a very strict regimen the Jewish refugees had to adhere to, it was far better than the hardship from which they came. Once in Switzerland many of these families would send a telegram back to Vyšná Radvaň indicating that they were safe. Typically, it was just a simple message saying, "The charcoal has arrived safely".

This went on without any problem for a few months. However, in the beginning of January 1943 there was an incident where the train got diverted, stopped, and was left parked for a long time. This was the last stop in Germany before the train would have entered Switzerland. It was still deep in Germany and there was a heavy Nazi presence. This train was smuggling Jews in cars from Medzilaborce and Vyšná Radvaň. There were three cars with around 14 Jews in total hiding in them. The people being smuggled in the cars did not know what to do and panicked. They decided to break themselves out of the car and try to run for safety. However, they were quickly caught by the SS soldiers at the train yard, sent to Bregenz, Austria for interrogation, and it was later found out that these people were taken to Auschwitz. One survivor suspected that since it was the middle of winter, their car drew attention of the soldiers because it did not have any frost on it from the body heat, while the other cars did.

The Nazis found this unacceptable. They did not know how many Jews had already escaped to Switzerland and could possibly be spreading information about the atrocities taking place in the Nazi controlled areas. In March 1943, Gestapo started investigations of this matter in both Medzilaborce and Vyšná Radvaň. They came to Vyšná Radvaň to interrogate the employees of the companies exporting charcoal through the rail station. In short time, they found Vilmosh and started to interrogate him. They beat Vilmosh to see if he would confess to his involvement. Fortunately, Vilmosh was also friendly with the local Sheriff who was readily bribed by the family. The Sheriff eventually stepped in and convinced the Gestapo to free him.

Investigations in the district continued until the end of January 1944. A few of the organizers in Medzilaborce were arrested. Unfortunately, the smuggling operation stopped after this incident. Between the long investigation and the S.S. starting to randomly check the sealed cars at the various stops along this line, it became too dangerous to continue.

## **Chapter 7 - Albert's life in the United States**

When Albert Weisberger came to America he worked in his Uncle Samuel's store in Scranton Pennsylvania. Albert described it as feeling like slave labor. He worked long hours and barely made anything. He found himself having to skim from the cash register from time to time to have a little extra money.

Albert finally left Scranton and moved to Philadelphia where he lived with his Uncle Jack and Aunt Adele Tobias. They were family from his mother, Miriam's side of the family. He eventually started working as an insurance salesman, which remained his occupation for the rest of his life. He applied and became a naturalized citizen of the United States on August 15, 1927.

One day Albert met Isabel Rosenbaum and fell in love. They got married in 1935 then had their daughter Marcy in 1948.



*Albert, Marcy, Isabel*

### **Albert in Military (as dictated by his fellow soldiers):**



Through the years Albert could maintain communications with his family back in Slovakia. He knew what Hitler was doing in Europe and how hard life was for all the Jewish people, particularly his family.

The United States stayed out of the war until December 1941, when they declared war after the attack on Pearl Harbor. In 1942 Albert lost communication with his family. He was unaware that his parents and most of his brothers and sisters had been taken to the camps.

Albert figured the only way he could possibly find out what was happening to his family and help them out was to leave Isabel and his job behind and enlist in the U.S. Army. So, on May 18, 1943,

Albert joined the 275<sup>th</sup> Armored Field Artillery Battalion.

Albert was well known to his friends and fellow soldiers in C Battery as a man that left his job and wife behind to serve his adopted country. He made friends readily with his warm smile.

His knack for figures quickly landed him in the Fire Direction Control section of C Battery earning him the rank of Tech 5 or T/5, which is the pay grade equivalent to corporal.

Albert went to Camp Phillips in Kansas for basic training. His unit had only been activated on April 15, 1943. Then off to Camp Campbell in Kentucky. In January of 1944, his unit was converted to a self-propelled Armored Battalion.

By the summer of 1944 Albert and his battalion were sent to England. Their campaigns started in Northern France about three months after D-Day. They then moved to the Ardennes in Belgium and participated in the Battle of the Bulge (including the Schnee Eifel and St. Vith).

According to some of his fellow soldiers, they knew “this was not Al's first time in Europe as it was for most of his buddies. Though he did not make it a big issue at the time, he was fighting for his adopted country as well as for family members who were suffering under the Nazi scourge near Czechoslovakia.”



In Belgium, before they participated in the Battle of the Bulge, they had stopped for a training mission and it was noticed by a few soldiers that Albert had made friends with the locals and their animals. It turned out that he befriended the children with the chocolate bars he received in his military rations. Many knew it was also Albert's smile that had been equally refreshing to them.

They eventually moved into the Rhineland before finally being part of the occupation

forces of Germany a few weeks prior to V-E Day.

After the Germans surrendered the 275<sup>th</sup> Armored Field Artillery was assigned to support the US Occupation Forces and provide for the public welfare. They were ordered back to Camp Bowie, TX, reporting for redeployment training on August 14, 1945 for the Pacific Theater. However, the Japanese surrendered and with the ending of the war, the unit was deactivated.

On October 3, 1945, Albert was given an honorable discharge from the Army and returned to Isabelle and his life in Philadelphia. Albert was never successful at finding his family while he was in Europe or finding any information about what happened to them. After the surviving family were liberated and reestablished themselves in Humenné, they were able to reconnect with Albert. They explained to him all that had happened and the little that they knew about their parents and siblings that were taken away.



## **Chapter 8 - The Family under Hungarian Control & the Hungarian Labor Battalion**

When the Nazi Party came in and split up Czechoslovakia in 1939, the Slovak State itself was split. The Subcarpathian Rus area, which is the southeastern part of the State, was annexed to Hungary as part of a land dispute dating back to World War I. This was an area the members from both the Weisberger and Weiss families resided. After Margit Weisberger married Herman Wohl, they moved back to his village of Maly Berezny, which was a border town in what is today Ukraine.

The Benovic family (Filip's younger sister Regina Weisberger) and Stern family (Miriam's older sister Henche Tobias), who are relatives of the Weisberger family, lived in a border village called Ublya, which is still Slovakia today. After Miriam Weiss married Shoni Keisler, they moved to the village of Bodrogszentes on the southern border with Hungary, which is known as Svätušë today and part of Slovakia.

The Hungarian Ministry of Defense had established the Labor Battalion in 1939. By 1941, the system underwent a major change in which Jews of military age were gathered to serve at least two years in their labor service units. Jews with any military background were deprived of rank. These units evolved into massive pools of labor available to the military to perform the undesirable duties of building, fortification, mine clearing and other services. They were always under Hungarian officers' command, guarded by Hungarian soldiers. These units were deployed both within the Hungarian borders and outside. They would also serve next to the army fighting the Soviet Union on the Eastern Front. There were approximately 50,000 Jewish servicemen deployed.

### **The Benovic Family**

Regina was the younger sister of Filip Weisberger. She married Emanuel Benovic and they had five boys. The Benovic family lived in Ublya, which was in this Hungarian controlled part of Slovakia. About 30 Jewish families lived in the community and everyone treated each other well until the Nazi party came and started to spread a lot of anti-Semitism.

The Benovic family were what was considered a middle-class family and well off. The family had a general store run by Regina and the middle boys, Benjamin, Herman, and Adolf. Their oldest son, Jakub ran a tailoring business at which his youngest brother Bernie eventually helped. Jakub was married to Mami and had a young daughter, Miriam.

When the Hungarian Ministry of Defense started taking Jewish men to the Labor Battalion, Benjamin, Herman, and Adolf were taken away. Bernie was also recruited into government forced labor, however due to his age, he served locally and could come back home at night.

Little is known as to what happened to the three boys after they were taken to serve by the Hungarian Labor Battalion. It is presumed they were all taken to serve around the Russian front lines. Adolf was reportedly serving in Pervoj Maja USSR where records show he died in November 1942 from hypothermia. Records also show that Herman was serving in Hoskoje, Ukraine where he died in January 1943. There are no records that tell the true fate of Benjamin to date, but he is presumed to have met a similar fate to his brothers.

In 1944, the German Reich restarted an even more fierce effort to gather all the Jews in Slovakia, no matter what pardons or designations they were given. On April 14, 1944, all the Jews in Ublya were instructed that they were to gather in the local Synagogue.

Before the family was gathered, Emanuel took Bernie down to the cellar of their house where they moved some stones and hid the family gold and jewelry so it would not be taken by the Nazis. The idea was they could come back for it someday and have the means to live.

Once all the families gathered at the Synagogue, they were shipped in cattle cars to regional collection facility in Ungvar (now part of Ukraine). In Ungvar, they stayed at a former brickyard once owned by the Moskovits family before it was liquidated. The factory had not been maintained and was in very poor condition for people to live in. This is where Regina, Emanuel, their two sons, Bernie and Jakub, along with Jakub's wife and daughter, would live. At this time, Jakub's wife Mami was also pregnant again. After a month, they were loaded in cattle cars and sent to Auschwitz. The brothers were separated out for work detail while the parents, sister-in-law and niece were all taken directly to the gas chamber.

Jakub and Bernie were separated out for forced labor. In Auschwitz, Jakub was assigned to the work details digging ditches and roads. When Bernie was initially separated, another prisoner told him to tell the guards he was a mechanic when they asked him his profession and it would get him an easier labor assignment. So, he did and the Germans sent him to work in a munitions factory. They taught Bernie how to use a boring machine and other machines to make ammunition. This was easier work than the manual labor of digging ditches.

Bernie was eventually sent to another factory in Katowice, where he worked for eight months. There was very little food and was only given about 800 calories a day to eat.

As the Russian army got closer, the prisoners were put in cars and sent to Mauthausen Camp in Austria. Bernie was transferred with his brother, Jakub on January 29, 1945.

In Mauthausen, Jakub was again assigned to work detail carrying materials to build structures. By February 24, 1945 he was transferred to Mauthausen's sub-camp of Saurer-Werke in Wien, where he continued to be part of the work detail. After a few weeks, Jakub's body finally broke down and his heart gave out. He died on March 1, 1945.

In Mauthausen, Bernie was put in forced labor, however this time carrying stones uphill to build structures like Jakub. However, he was eventually transferred to the Gusen II on March 1, 1945, where Bernie was again assigned to the Steyr-Deimler-Puch AG munitions factory. Bernie recalls constantly being beaten during marches to and from the factory. It was here that the United States military liberated him on May 5, 1945.

### **Shoni & Miriam Keisler**

Miriam Weiss was the oldest daughter to Jonas & Ester Weiss. She married Shoni Keisler in January 1937. After they were married they moved to the village of Bodrogszentes (currently known as Svätušé) on the southeastern border of Slovakia and Hungary.



*Miriam & Reli*

On February 12, 1938 Miriam gave birth to their daughter Reli. However, about six weeks after giving birth Miriam contracted Tuberculosis. Suffering from the effects of the



*Miriam & Shoni  
Wedding photo*

Tuberculosis, Miriam was finding it hard to care for Reli while Shoni was working. Miriam continually had to be in and out of sanitariums for treatment. So, they decided that it was best for Reli if Miriam moved back to Ruská Kajňa so Miriam's family could help with Reli. Shoni would continue working in Bodrogszentes and visit when he could.

It became increasingly difficult for Shoni to make this journey after the land dispute in 1939 put their village under the authority of Hungary. Shoni now had to deal with the troubles of a border crossing. It was during one of these border crossings on his way back from visiting Miriam and Reli, that Shoni was arrested by the Hungarian border police. By this time any Jew accused of any crime was sentenced to serve in forced labor in the Hungarian Labor Battalion.

Shoni was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau where he was assigned to work in forced labor. On May 24, 1944, he was transferred to the labor camp at Gross Rosen until around November 1944 when he was assigned to the Gross Rosen sub-camp of Wüstegiersdorf to work on the building of the Reise complex. He was later relocated to the Reise complex in February 1945 as a response to the front getting closer to this region. A month later the Reise complex was closed down and Shoni was transferred to the Mauthausen sub-camp of Ebensee where he was assigned to work in the limestone mines building tunnels.

The Ebensee camp was liberated in May 1945. Unfortunately, Shoni never made it to liberation. To date, it is not known exactly what his final fate was, or exactly when he died. Miriam only ever knew he was arrested at the border, but neither Miriam nor the rest of the family ever knew what happened to him after that.

### List of KZ Gross Rosen Prisoners

- 87 -					
581.	30836	x P	Kasmierczak Leon	26. 8.1911	Fl 87530
2.	1545	x P	Kasmierczak Władysław	30. 5.1922	sa 86317
3.	42728	/ WZ	Kasu Eugen	15. 4.1906	
4.	27839	x P	Kazubek Ludwik	15. 9.1911	MI 115521
5.	27842	x P	Kazulinski Józef	20. 6.1917	Fl 87531
6.		/ P	Kebłowski Józef	5. 2.1899	Fl 8446
7.		/ P	Kędzierski Bolesław	11. 1.1901	Fl 8555
8.	43738	/ WZ	Kein Lipót	4. 3.1897	
9.	37521	x WZ	Keisler Arpad	18. 8.1928	Ma 136875
90.	41724	/ WZ	Keistler Emanuel		zm.5.11.44
1.	38691	x WZ	Keisler Sander	25.10.1899	Ma 135881
2.	27844	x P	Kojna Wincenty	19. 7.1907	MI 115608
3.	43772	/ WZ	Keller Josef	12.11.1905	
4.	33998	/ WZ	Kemenny Emil		zm.21.11.44
5.	37520	/ WZ	Kempfner Aleksander	17.1.1900	
6.	38234	/ WZ	Kempfner Jonas	20. 3.1929	
7.	43778	/ WZ	Kandl Sander		zm.11.11.44
8.	1028	x P	Kenszycki Mieczysław	1. 1.1923	MI 119821
9.	43768	/ WZ	Kepes Ferenc	21. 9.1902	
600.	43766	/ WZ	Kepes Ignatz	15.10.1888	
1.	43733	/ WZ	Kepes Mihaly	5.11.1924	
2.	43735	/ WZ	Kepetsch Salamon	23. 4.1886	zm.29.3.45
3.	43734	/ WZ	Kepetsch Sander	2.1900	zm.6.3.45
4.		/ P	Kerber Jerzy	5.10.1908	Fl 8556
5.	34021	/ WZ	Keri György	1.10.1897	zm.24.2.45
6.	32706	/	Keriszowski		
7.	33185	/ WZ	Kertész Jonas	15. 5.1928	zm.18.4.45
8.	33168	x WZ	Kertész Menyhert	30. 9.1890	Ma 135885
9.	33988	/ WZ	Kertész Zoltan		
10.	39465	/ WZ	Kessler Lajos	6. 5.1925	zm.24.2.45



# Personnel card from KZ Mauthausen

- 4. 3. 88.

KL.: \_\_\_\_\_

HML-Nr.:  
135881 Ung Jude

## Häftlings-Personal-Karte

Oberstellt

Fam.-Name: Keisler am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

Vorname: Sandor am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

Geb. am: 25.10.99 Bodrogszentő am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

Stand: verh Kinder: 1 am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

Wohnort: Bodrogszentő Com Zemplen am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

Strasse: Hauptstr 110 am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

Religion: MOS Staatsang.: Ung am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

Wohnort d. Angehörigen: Margita geb Weiss am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

Radwein Slowakei am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

Eingewiesen am: 20.5.44 Gr R am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

durch: 3.3.45 KLM am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

in KL.: Ung Jude am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

Grund: \_\_\_\_\_ am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

Verurteilt: \_\_\_\_\_ am: \_\_\_\_\_ an KL.

mit Verfügung v.: \_\_\_\_\_

Entlassung: \_\_\_\_\_ durch KL.: \_\_\_\_\_

Strafen im Lager:

Grund:	Art:	Bemerkung:

KL. 2-44 800.000

Personen-Beschreibung:

Grösse: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Gestalt: \_\_\_\_\_

Gesicht: \_\_\_\_\_

Augen: \_\_\_\_\_

Nase: \_\_\_\_\_

Mund: \_\_\_\_\_

Ohren: \_\_\_\_\_

Zähne: \_\_\_\_\_

Haare: \_\_\_\_\_

Sprache: \_\_\_\_\_

Bes. Kennzeichen: \_\_\_\_\_

Charakt.-Eigenschaften: \_\_\_\_\_

Sicherheit b. Einsatz: \_\_\_\_\_

Körperliche Verfassung: \_\_\_\_\_

## Herman & Margit Wohl

After Herman and Margit Wohl were married they moved back to Herman's village of Maly Berezny on the southeast border Slovak border with Ukraine which was an area awarded to Hungary during the war.

In September 1941, the Army came through the town and tore Margit and Herman apart. Herman was taken first. He was assigned to be part of the Hungarian Labor Battalion. He was sent to the town of Bor, Yugoslavia where he was assigned to forced labor at the copper mines. Herman would work in the copper pits or dig tunnels in deep water. At Bor, it was known that if ever a man showed weakness he was killed.

Much of Herman's survival came from an unexpected source. While Herman was a prisoner he worked as the personal valet to one of the high ranking German officers. Like anyone who knew Herman could attest, Herman was a wonderful man to be around. This German officer established an unlikely bond with Herman much to the chagrin of the other Nazi guards. On many occasions, other officers wanted Herman sent to the death chambers with the other



Jews, but every time this officer stepped in and prevented Herman from being sent. It is not clear why, but these actions saved Herman.

In September 1944, he was transferred to Flossenbürg Concentration Camp with around 4,000 inmates. After about 2-3 months he was given the opportunity to sign up for a work detail. He signed up as a mason. This work detail got him transferred to a sub-camp of Flossenbürg called Elbe IV in Aue, which acted as another Forced Labor Camp. Herman knew if he had not gotten this detail, in a few days he would have been killed at Flossenbürg. Only 20 men were chosen for this detail.

In Aue he worked every day building a Hitler Youth Training Camp. He first worked as a mason then later as a painter. He dug trenches and chopped wood that they would also have to bring from the forest. Herman recalled a young SS commander who had lost his hand in the war. He would bring Herman to his room to help him tie his shoes and take care of other tasks.

By April/May 1945, the front line was approaching and the camp was dissolved. The German Guards took the remaining prisoners to Karlsbad, Czech (today: Karlovy Vary) by trucks. There they were integrated into a Death March of prisoners from the Mauthausen evacuation, who were headed to Theresienstadt. Herman's group was formed into a Cemetery Detachment that buried an average of 50 to 60 bodies a day that died in the March. Herman was liberated from Theresienstadt on May 5, 1945.

Margit was able to stay in Maly Berezny after Herman was taken to the labor camps. However, in 1944 the Russian front was getting closer and the war was not going well for the German army. The Nazi's were paranoid of Hungary's allegiance with them and invaded Hungary in March of 1944. The Germans took a more rigorous stance and intensified their anti-Semitic policies. They started mass deportation of Jews in Hungary and the bordering areas. In April 1944, Margit was arrested by the Hungarian Police as part of these mass deportations. She was taken to Auschwitz with most of the Jews that were gathered from her area during this period.

During her time in Auschwitz she was chosen to be part of Josef Mengele's infamous experiments. She was tortured and experimented on for a large part of the seven months she at Auschwitz. Margit would never discuss the details of what happened to her while in Auschwitz, however the results of her torture prevented her from ever being able to have children.

In November 1944, the Russian army was storming across Poland, so the decision was made to start dismantling Auschwitz. Records were being destroyed and prisoners started to be transported to other camps. Margit was transferred to Bergen-Belsen, in Germany, where she was housed in the newly established "women's camp". This was the same camp that housed Ann Frank and her mother. Margit was part of a group of 9000 women and young girls that was

transferred from surrounding camps that were being evacuated. Margit was put into forced labor while there.

On December 18, 1944 Margit was part of a group of 800 women that was sent to Braunschweig (subcamp of Neuengamme) in Germany. They were housed in the stables of the former SS Riding School. These women had to clean up debris after the Allied bombing of Braunschweig months earlier in October that leveled the majority of the city. This lasted three months then Margit was transferred to Bendorf Labor camp in March of 1945. She was marched every day from the camp to the nearby airplane parts factory located in an underground salt mine with the rest of the women.

The entire camp was evacuated to Hamburg, Germany on April 10, 1945. She traveled in cattle cars of 120 women per car for a 12-day journey. For five days they did not get any water or bread. The SS-men beat the women unconscious every night. Upon arriving in Hamburg on April 23, 1945 the surviving prisoners were placed in a camp. The beatings stopped and the food rations were increased. On April 29, 1945, it was announced that the Red Cross was taking control of the camp. Margit went with a group of women that were healthy enough to survive a train ride to Denmark. On May 2, 1945, she was processed and sent to a Red Cross hospital in Sweden to recover.

After Herman was liberated, he was sent to a hospital to recover from a typhus outbreak at Theresienstadt, and then he went to a UNRRA DP (Displaced Persons) Camp. This is where he began his search for his beloved Margit. He scoured through Red Cross documents until he found that she was still alive and recovering at a Red Cross Hospital in Sweden. Eventually they were reunited.

Herman Wohl's Flossenbürg Prisoner Record (mistakenly written as Josef)

34181	Ung. J.	Winkler	Janos	Szilvasszony	25.1.03	9.11.44	26.11.44
2	"	Winkler	Armin	Ujpest	12.5.02	"	5.12.44
3	"	Willingner	Janos	"	28.10.15	"	5.12.44
4	"	Wirtschaftler	Paul	Kiskövesd	23.11.20	"	26.11.44
5	"	Wismann	Fritz	Pelso	20.2.02	"	26.11.44
6	"	Wohl	Josef	Roborena	22.107	"	21.11.44
7	"	Wohl	Laszlo	"	13.10.23	"	26.11.44
8	"	Wohl	Lajos	Szeged	18.1.12	"	26.11.44
9	"	Wohl	Ludwig	Budapest	1.1.99	"	26.11.44
34190	"	Wohl	Nandor	Misopaltosa	21.7.14	"	10.12.44
1	"	Wollak	Tibor	Tapolca	24.5.24	"	26.11.44
2	"	Wollner	Karl	Halasd	21.5.97	"	26.11.44
3	"	Wolwies	Simon	Bereza	16.10.23	"	26.11.44
4	"	Wölcher	Jeno	Budapest	20.6.08	"	26.11.44
5	"	Lichtner	Andor	Galanta	17.6.23	"	26.11.44
6	"	Berger	Laszlo	Budapest	26.4.06	"	26.11.44
7	"	Dörkus	Bertalan	"	16.4.96	"	26.11.44
8	"	Darabos	Paul	"	24.11.11	"	26.11.44
9	"	Deutsch	Ladislau	Zellgymnast	31.7.24	"	5.12.44
34200	"	Danos	Sandor	Verzossin	18.4.97	"	26.11.44
1	"	Blok	Jeno	Balasagarmat	11.8.08	"	26.11.44
2	Ung. J.	Linhorn	Natan	Johann	26.4.07	18.11.44	18.11.44
3	"	Füzeseri	Kalman	Babodha	14.12.98	9.11.44	4.12.44
4	"	Fuchs	Jeno	Budapest	23.11.01	"	26.11.44
5	"	Fuchs	Majer	Flussköfalva	15.10.07	"	26.11.44
6	"	Fuchs	Miksa	Sopron	28.9.20	"	26.11.44
7	"	Fuchs	Lipót	Esorna	15.2.08	"	26.11.44
8	"	Frisch	Tibor	Movac	19.8.05	"	26.11.44
9	"	Frankl	Lajos	Budapest	22.1.97	"	26.11.44
34210	"	Fleischmann	Marton	"	19.7.07	"	26.11.44

# Herman Wohl – Transport list from Flossenbürg to Aue/Sachsen Subcamp

Arbeitseinsatz

Flossenbürg, den 24. 11. 44.

4E

20 Überstellungen nach dem Arbeitskommando Elbe IV Aue/Sachsen

1.	Ungar Jude	33410	Eisler	Dersa	24.11.03	HA
2.	"	33490	Friedmann	Mozes	14.11.19	Installateur
3.	"	33546	Gottreich	Tiber	27.10.11	Hilfsarbeiter
4.	"	33580	Guttmann	Martin	10. 2.21	"
5.	"	33603	Herskovits	Erno	3. 1.15	Zimmermann
6.	"	33668	Kadelburger	Erno	17. 3.97	Elektriker
7.	"	33682	Katz	Beha	21. 5.13	Hilfsarbeiter
8.	"	33713	Klein	Bela	5.11.20	Maurer
9.	"	33798	Lebovits	Pinkas	2. 3.23	Hilfsarbeiter
10.	"	33808	Leb	Mozes	20.12.20	Hilfsarbeiter
11.	"	33943	Rosenbaum	Maur	3. 9.20	Hilfsarbeiter
12.	"	33946	Rosenberg	Bela	21.11.19	Dachdecker
13.	"	33955	Rosner	Salomon	1.11.07	Maurer
14.	"	34113	Tischler	Israel	19. 8.19	Hilfsarbeiter
15.	"	34141	Weingarten	Menyhert	26. 6.07	Hilfsarbeiter
16.	"	34157	Weisz	Zelig	31. 5.15	Hilfsarbeiter
17.	"	34158	Weisz	Georg	7.10.12	Hilfsarbeiter
18.	"	34150	Weiss	Salomon	31. 5.20	Hilfsarbeiter
19.	"	34170	Weisser	Henrik	20. 1.07	HA und Friseur
20.	"	34186	Wohl	Hermann	22. 1.07	Maurer

Der Arbeitseinsatzführer:

I.V.

*Lübel*

Unterscharführer.

*Von 44.11.44*

Der Arbeitseinsatzführer:

I.V. *Lieber*

// Unterscharführer.

*Voran 11.11.44*



## **Chapter 9 - Hiding in the Mountains**

The Weisberger/Weiss family stayed in Vyšná Radvaň until about March 1944 when they were forced to evacuate when the Russian front was approaching. The Germans were in retreat and the Russian front was moving westward. The Germans were getting paranoid of their own alliances. They had just invaded Hungary, who had been a longtime ally. Until this time, although Slovakia was under German influence, the Slovaks were still in charge and the family could bribe officials to leave them alone.

Seeing the war start to move against them, the Germans tolerated no Jewish presence. In a speech, the Security Minister ordered a more rigorous approach to the “Jewish problem” regardless of if a Presidential pardon had been given or not. A forced displacement of Jews from the Eastern part of Slovakia (the area closest to the front lines) was to commence again.

The word started getting around and the Jews in the area were instructed to move west to stay away from the eastern front. A business contact of Jonas Weiss told him if they must hide, and since they had the conversion papers, they should go to the small village of Liptovská Porúbka at the foot of the Small Tatra Mountains. This was an almost unknown place very close to a slightly bigger village of Liptovský Hrádok. In this small village, there were around 100 houses and maybe 1 Jewish man living in it, so there was little attraction to this town by the Germans. It was a good place for Jews to hide without drawing too much attention.

Before they left Vyšná Radvaň they decided it was too hard to continue to travel and hide while carrying the family jewelry, valuables, and money. Vilmosh Weisberger and Herman Weiss had been building houses next to each other before they left. Since Herman’s house was still mostly a rough shell, they found a spot on the outside wall of his house where the cement ran a certain way, leaving a distinct marking on the side of the house. They figured that distinctive mark would help them remember the spot later when they hoped they could come back to their homes. It was under this spot that they buried a large glass jar with all the money and family valuables deep into the footings of the house so they could reclaim it later.

### **Hiding in Liptovská Porúbka**

In Liptovská Porúbka, the family observed that when the Germans would patrol the area they generally stayed along the outskirts of the town because it was such a small town. There were about 10 Jewish families, including ours, that were in hiding in separate homes in this village. All the families were separated, especially the children, so they would not draw attention. They even joined the other families of the village at church services to blend in. Leo Weiss reflected



that it seemed at times that they knew more of what was going on during the church service than the local families because of how they had to pay attention and blend in.

The kids did not attend school but Ester Weiss was able to arrange private tutoring for the children. The village families that hide people did so at great personal risk. They either didn't have kids, or had older kids, to make sure they didn't inadvertently say anything that would draw attention to the house.

This was hardest on the young Weisberger/Weiss kids. All the young cousins grew up and lived next to each other in Vyšná Radvaň. They were used to playing with one another and greeting each other with a hug. However now they needed to pretend they did not know each other when they would see each other. There is a story that one time Michael and Morry were playing outside and happened to notice each other for first time during the time they were hiding. It had been a very long time since they had seen each other and they ran over to give each other a hug. This drew a lot of attention of some locals that started asking how these kids knew each other. After this scare, all the families were far more diligent to make sure the kids knew better and kept them separated.

Tibor Weisberger's daughter, Lea, remembers living with the Christian family. Around Easter time, her mother Matilda was asked to help braid the Easter bread. Since she knew how to braid the 3 braided Jewish Challah, it was easy for her to do the five braids as is customary in Easter bread. Lea also remembers the older man they lived with. She would jump in to his lap and call him "grandpa". He used to also carve wooden toys for her and her sister Gabi to play with.

### **Retreating to the Mountains**

The end of August 1944, the Slovak National Uprising broke out. The center of the resurgence



*One of the underground cabins*

was in Banska Bistrica, a regional center in this same region not too far away from Liptovská Porúbka, where the family was hiding. The Germans, who wanted to put down the resistance, bombed the area and brought the army. The Slovak partisans (local militia forces) from the village, along with the older Weisberger/Weiss men, fled from the villages and hid in the Brtkovica mountains. They combined with a group of Russian Partisans that

had also been operating in the area. These mountains were part of the Small Tatra Mountains next to Liptovská Porúbka. Until this time the men had been helping the Russian Partisans build a network of barracks up the mountain. These barracks were wooden cabins that they built into the hills so when you were walking up the paths they would blend into the terrain. A person would almost have to walk on top of the cabin before they would realize it was there. The Partisans had been operating out of these mountain bunkers for some time as part of the local resistance movement against the German Army.

In short time, much larger contingents of Germans were arriving in this area due to the uprising, making it too risky for the families to stay in the town. The Germans were getting desperate and there was a concern for the families that were hiding our family.

Lea Weisberger recalls a “near death” experience when German soldiers went door to door looking for Jews who were hidden. Her sister Gabi always wore a scarf on her head because she looked very Jewish with her curly black hair. The two soldiers kicked on the door and as Matilda opened the door they pushed their way in. The girls were both playing at the table. The German soldier knelt down and pointed his bayonet under the bed thinking someone was hidden there. Matilda in an unusual act of bravery, said to the two soldiers “come in, come in gentlemen” and pointing to a bench nearby “warm yourselves. It is very cold outside.” At this time, she was brushing Lea’s hair to have something to do with her hands. The German soldier turned to the Slovakian soldier and asked him to ask Matilda if they were locals. Matilda responded “yes”, and then the soldiers left.

With this increased German presence, the decision was made that everyone come to the mountains where they all lived in the various cabins. It was only Miriam, and her daughter Reli, who kept hiding in the basement of their host family. Miriam was too sick from her tuberculosis to be able to move, let alone live in a cabin in the mountains during winter time.

The remaining family stayed on the mountain where they felt relatively safe because the Germans were generally afraid to enter the forest terrain. The terrain was rather rugged and the paths were not clearly defined so they were concerned of



*Brtkovica Mountain Valley*

being cut off from their provisions, but more importantly, the Germans were afraid of the Russians Partisans.

Life for everyone living in the mountains was chaos with the shooting and aerial bombings. The cabins they lived in also served as weapons depots for the Russian Partisans who were hiding in the mountains. The families were afraid of being in the cabins during the air raids for fear that an explosion would trigger the munitions. So even with it being the middle of winter, they chose to sleep outside under down comforters instead of in the bunkers.

The uprising was eventually quelled by the Germans and the remaining Slovak partisans returned home. However, the Russian Partisans, along with the rest of the family, decided to stay in the mountains, because the Germans were all over the place. The townspeople of Liptovská Porúbka would go up every day to deliver supplies and never revealed to the Germans the Partisans existence. There was a story of one man from the village that was caught by the Germans delivering provisions into the mountains. This man was killed by the Germans because he would not divulge any information about those that were hiding.

By November 1944, as the winter came the weather was getting too cold for the younger children. The Russians did not like having the crying kids in the mountains. Vilmosh & Tibor Weisberger and Herman Weiss came down from the mountains with the women and young kids and found places for them to hide in the small village of Vavrišovo, not too far away from Liptovská Porúbka. After getting the families settled the men returned to the mountains.

The remaining family stayed in the hills where they felt relatively safe because the Germans still were generally afraid to enter the hills. The Germans were afraid of the Russians Partisans that they knew were still in the mountains. Ester Weiss remained in the mountains to help cook and tend to everyone, but particularly to keep an eye on the younger brothers and their interactions with the older partisan men.

### **Living with the Russian Partisans**

While the family was living in the mountains with the Russian partisans, they still needed to look out for each other. The partisans were a rough and ruthless group of Russian military that were basically caught behind enemy lines and trying to do their part to disrupt the German offensive in the area. They mainly looked out for themselves and did not care too much for the non-military people that they felt were getting in their way.

From most stories of living with the partisans, Vilmosh Weisberger seemed to be the one in the best standing with the Russian partisans. Possibly because Vilmosh himself had served in the

Army, he was more used to these conditions and dealing with military people. Vilmosh would look out for his brother Tibor, and the rest of his brother in-laws.

Eugene Weiss recalled an incident where they were all in one of the bunkers along with some of the partisans. One of the partisans had put his pistol down on a wood pile behind where Eugene was sitting. It fell back behind the pile and was hidden from the partisan. When the partisan went to retrieve his pistol, it was no longer in the same spot he left it. All he saw was a young Eugene sitting there and immediately accused Eugene of stealing his pistol. In a rage, the man picked up Eugene and threw him up against a tree outside the bunker. As he started to beat on Eugene, Vilmosh stepped in between them and calmed the man down. They took the man back into the bunker where they found the pistol laying on the ground behind the wood pile. Eugene knew if Vilmosh did not step in, that partisan would have probably killed him.

Lea recalled that her mother, Matilda Weisberger had sewn money into the collar of Tibor's overcoat. This was primarily used for when the men would play cards with the Partisans. They would let the Partisan's win and thereby ingratiate themselves to the Partisans. It was basically a form of a bribe for the partisans so they would allow the family to continue to stay with them.

From time to time the older Weisberger/Weiss brothers would go off on various missions with the Partisans. The train tracks that ran through the area were a typical target in order to hamper supplies getting to the German Army. These were generally missions that they would go on in the middle of the night in smaller groups.



*Brtkovica Mountain & train bridge crossing*

Eugene and Fred Weiss both recalled the occasional mission they would go on to set explosives at the train tracks. Fred had a vivid memory of going on a mission once where he helped blow up a railroad bridge off to the one side of the mountain.

Due to the position the Partisans held in the mountains, the Germans had a very hard time finding them. The Partisans always had high ground on them and the forest was very dense.

The Germans would send planes over to try to find them but could never see them through the dense trees tops. One of the German planes was even shot down on the other side of the mountain.

One night the Germans took a chance and rushed up the mountain. Along the way they set fire to all the cabins they would find in their path. The family was afraid that the Germans would reach them so they vacated their cabins and retreated further up the mountain. This lasted into the night and the family was forced to sleep in the snow. The partisans eventually forced the Germans to retreat back down the mountain. The Germans did not get far enough up into the mountain to do harm to their cabins, although many other cabins were destroyed. Most were hunting cabins that were lower on the mountain.

There was a story of a German spy that infiltrated the camp. One day a guy shows up claiming to be Russian military and wanted to join the Partisan group. The group allowed him in. However, one of the Partisans had a funny feeling about the guy, though everyone else seemed alright with him. He took it upon himself to keep a close eye on the new guy. One day the spy went alone to go clean himself at the stream. This partisan found it odd that he went alone and he followed the spy. The partisan confronted the spy at the stream and made the spy strip out of his uniform. This is when he found a SS insignia tattooed on the spy. The partisan took out his pistol and killed the spy right there on the spot.

Around December 1944, Miriam Weiss's condition was getting far more severe. Up until this point the locals were reluctant to send her to the sanitarium for fear that they would find out she was Jewish and send her to the camps. By the start of January, her condition reached a point that if she did not get proper care soon she was sure to die. After discussing it with the family, the local family she was staying with arranged for transportation that would take her. Unfortunately, Miriam passed away before they were able to take her.

Upon Miriam's death, this local family hiding her and Reli, got a message up to Jonas and Ester to ask them what to do with Miriam's body. Since it was the middle of winter and there was a lot of heavy fighting around, this family wrapped Miriam in a shroud and laid her body in a snowy trench, then protected her body by covering her with straw from their barn. With the idea that once the fighting would pass they would properly bury her.

Ester Weiss did not want Reli to be alone in the village. So, Ester sent Fred down to the village to bring her back. The rest of the family held their breath until Fred made it back. They were very concerned because of all the heavy fighting going on in the area causing shooting going overhead on the path down to the village. Fred made it down to the village, put Reli on his back and carried Reli back up the mountain path to her grandmother.

By the end of that same month, on January 31, 1945, after 5 months of living in the mountains, the family was liberated.



**Chapter 10 - Bercho Weissberger's Story of Surviving the Camps**  
**(In his own words from Shoah interview - July 1996)**

In June 1942, after the Bercho and Samuel were separated from their parents and sisters, they continued on the train to Lublin, Poland. It was from here they were taken to Majdanek Labor Camp. Here is how Bercho describes it along with official camp records (records show Bercho under the following variant names: Aldabert, Albert, and Vojtech):

**Majdanek**

*"The arrival at Majdanek, suddenly, after separating at Katowice, we arrived outside of Majdanek. The train stopped and they opened the doors. And, as we exited the train, I noticed we were in an unknown place. There was nothing. The only thing we saw was the luggage, mounds and mounds. What is this? And they said to us very nicely, 'Mein herr (Distinguished sir). If you do not want to bother to take the belongings that you have there [in the pile of baggage], it will be taken to the place you will be staying.' Looking at my brother, I did not know what to do. He said, 'Look, Berko. Do you see this? We better take the 25 kilos. They were in backpacks. No, they were not even proper backpacks. Let's take them.'"*

*"We walked under a blistering heat for who knows how many kilometers. And as we arrived, we saw we were getting close, we saw people in the uniforms... So, what is going on? Well, we keep walking and ahead of us there is a square, it was somewhat near the fields... We went around, and, take off the pants, sweaters, coats, in an organized way so there won't be any trouble. So, there won't be a big deal. And so we stayed, um, how we came to this world."*

*"At this moment, um, I had a piece of bread, and I wanted to take it out, but couldn't because I would be beaten up. At this point I was very hungry. I couldn't think of anything else (but food), it was like a trauma. They took everything from us and when we were all naked, and it was all organized, we weren't 'mein herr' anymore. They started to come in with whips. What was this about? My dear god, what did we do? I was a student, a young man, and suddenly I am a 'heftlink', a prisoner. Why? Because I am Jewish. And so the thing started with whips. They got us into the restrooms, and everything. With uniforms. I saw my brother, and he gave me a look, like it is all over now."*

*"Well, so the other day, in the morning, on the blocs, they would count how many we were. It had to be exact. We started marching. We were taken to do work, wearing Dutch wood shoes... And so we were walking early in the morning by Lublin. Through some (stone) streets. The steps could be heard all the way to the sky. And where are we going? We were already inside, and the surprise was that they stopped us right in front of a Jewish cemetery, the largest in Poland... They gave us different jobs. My job in Majdanek was to dig out the gravestones at the cemetery."*

*Do you know how that feels? Suddenly, at this age, I wondered what am I, what did I do? Do you know how big these gravestones are? Four, two on each shoulder. We would put them inside the wagons. I really wouldn't know If I had gone insane, or If I had an arm, would I take out my... It is just that one can't understand how suddenly... This shocking job, in such a large cemetery."*

*"They (the Nazis) would take advantage of anything. They would build roads, everything was usable. Nothing was a waste for them. It was a horrendous thing. Every day. Such luck. My brother and I, we couldn't even think, we just started crying. At night, we would barely get anything to eat. We knew this could only last so long. We wouldn't be able to go on like this. After two or three weeks, I started to get itchy, and got lice of all sizes. All because we weren't able to shower, and after work, we would all just stay inside the bunks. They would do this to mess with us."*

*"One day, after about 3 weeks of being in Majdanek, we see that they are putting the people together, and there was transportation. Every time there was something like that, and they would take people from one camp to the other, it was a relief. They are taking us to work, what a relief. My brother told me, you know what Berko? Over here, one or two more weeks, and like the German say: caput. It's over. Let's go to that transportation. This was the end of July (June 30, 1942)."*

#### Transport List of Prisoners from Lublin (Majdanek) to Auschwitz – 30 June, 1942

Konzentrationslager Auschwitz Abteilung II.						
Zugänge am 30. Juni 1942 :						
Überstellt aus dem KGL → Lublin.						
Lfd. Nr.	Häftl. Haftart Nr.	Name	Vorname	Geb.Dat.	Geb.Ort	Beruf
1057.	Sch. Jude	43833 Schmergel	Julius	11. 3.08	Podokle	Landwirt
1058.	" "	43834 Rosenblüth	*7.8.42 Emanuel	5. 8.12	Budapest	Landwirt
1059.	" "	43835 Tandlich	Josef	23. 8.26	Piekielnik	Schüler
1060.	" "	43836 Tandlich	Samuel	20.12.24	Piekielnik	Landarbeiter
1061.	" "	43837 Feuerreisen	10.8.42 Ludwig	15. 7.09	Bukowina Podskle	Landwirt
1062.	" "	43838 Tandlich	28. 7. Jakob 42	17. 9.93	Spisska Nova Bela	Landarbeiter
1063.	" "	43839 Schancer	10.8.42 Alexander	24. 5.14	Podwilk	Landarbeiter
1064.	" "	43840 Wappner	David	21. 4.97	Podwilk	Landwirt
1065.	" "	43841 Malz	14.8.42 Ludwig	4. 4.02	Podwilk	Landwirt



228.

Lfd. Nr.	Haftart	Haftl. Nr.	Name	Vorname	Geb.Dat.	Geb.Ort.	Beruf	
1390.	Sch. Jude	44166	Silber	Ernst	15. 9.12	Svate Michalany	Schlosser	
1.	"	7	Grünberger	David	5. 9.92	Horlyc	Landwirt	23. 7.42
2.	"	8	Herskovic	Salamon	4. 7.15	Uglya	Landarbeiter	18. 7.42
3.	"	9	Friedmann	Wilhelm	6.12.94	Garan	Landwirt	
4.	"	70	Friedmann	Josef	24.12.96	Garan	Landwirt	23. 7.42
5.	"	1	Merci	Johann	3. 6.22	Dudapest	Glaser	4. 8.42
6.	"	2	Berger	Eugen	30.11.23	Bratislava	Monteurgeh.	
7.	"	3	Berger	Alexander	8. 9.95	Cabaj	Landwirt	27.7.42
8.	"	4	Junger	Samuel	15. 5.17	Kbsep Apsa	Kaufmann	
9.	"	5	Roth	Zoltan	30. 9.10	Stitnik	Landwirt	
400.	"	6	Sperber	Samuel	18. 7. 96	Rawa Ruska	Bäcker	9. 7.42
1.	"	7	Singer	Albert	2. 4.14	Melcice	Schlosser	
2.	"	8	Oestreicher	David	6.12.08	Bekescesaba	Kaufmann	
3.	"	9	Kleinman	Adalbert	18.12.17	Secovce	Landarbeiter	
4.	"	80	Berkovitz	Martin	17. 2.11	Gandvygy	Landarbeiter	2.7.42
5.	"	1	Singer	Bernard	9. 3.01	Stebnicka Huta	Landard.	
6.	"	2	Hellinger	Hermann	9.12.09	Michalovce	Buchdrucker	
7.	"	3	Rosner	Emanuel	7. 7.95	Michalovce	Kaufmann	14. 8.42
8.	"	4	Edelstein	Simon	7. 4.95	Michalovce	Arbeiter	
9.	"	5	Edelstein	Zoltan	13. 9.20	Michalovce	Arbeiter	
10.	"	6	Tambor	Ignatz	21. 3.93	Vamfolu	Landwirt	10. 8.42
11.	"	7	Zimmermann	Hermann	17.11.13	Zborov	Uhrmacher	
12.	"	8	Waldman	Salamon	10. 1.88	Potoka	Landwirt	27.7.42
13.	"	9	Weissberger	Adalbert	18. 8.22	Hrabovce	Arbeiter	
14.	"	90	Weisberger	Samuel	25. 3.14	Hrabovce	Landwirt	
15.	"	1	Friedmann	Alex	15. 2.10	Varschovce	Landwirt	
16.	"	2	Polster	Jakob	21. 5.03	Ruska Poruba	Landwirt	
17.	"	3	Schlüssler	Josef	8. 1.99	Klanova	Landwirt	

Lfd. Nr.	Haftart	Haftl. Nr.	Name	Vorname	Geb.Dat.	Geb.Ort.	Beruf	
1390.	Sch. Jude	44166	Silber	Ernst	15. 9.12	Svate Michalany	Schlosser	
1.	"	7	Grünberger	David	5. 9.92	Horlyc	Landwirt	23. 7.42
2.	"	8	Herskovic	Salamon	4. 7.15	Uglya	Landarbeiter	18. 7.42
3.	"	9	Friedmann	Wilhelm	6.12.94	Garan	Landwirt	
4.	"	70	Friedmann	Josef	24.12.96	Garan	Landwirt	23. 7.42
5.	"	1	Merci	Johann	3. 6.22	Dudapest	Glaser	4. 8.42
6.	"	2	Berger	Eugen	30.11.23	Bratislava	Monteurgeh.	
7.	"	3	Berger	Alexander	8. 9.95	Cabaj	Landwirt	27.7.42
8.	"	4	Junger	Samuel	15. 5.17	Kbsep Apsa	Kaufmann	
9.	"	5	Roth	Zoltan	30. 9.10	Stitnik	Landwirt	
400.	"	6	Sperber	Samuel	18. 7. 96	Rawa Ruska	Bäcker	9. 7.42
1.	"	7	Singer	Albert	2. 4.14	Melcice	Schlosser	
2.	"	8	Oestreicher	David	6.12.08	Bekescesaba	Kaufmann	
3.	"	9	Kleinman	Adalbert	18.12.17	Secovce	Landarbeiter	
4.	"	80	Berkovitz	Martin	17. 2.11	Gandvygy	Landarbeiter	2.7.42
5.	"	1	Singer	Bernard	9. 3.01	Stebnicka Huta	Landard.	
6.	"	2	Hellinger	Hermann	9.12.09	Michalovce	Buchdrucker	
7.	"	3	Rosner	Emanuel	7. 7.95	Michalovce	Kaufmann	14. 8.42
8.	"	4	Edelstein	Simon	7. 4.95	Michalovce	Arbeiter	
9.	"	5	Edelstein	Zoltan	13. 9.20	Michalovce	Arbeiter	
10.	"	6	Tambor	Ignatz	21. 3.93	Vamfolu	Landwirt	10. 8.42
11.	"	7	Zimmermann	Hermann	17.11.13	Zborov	Uhrmacher	
12.	"	8	Waldman	Salamon	10. 1.88	Potoka	Landwirt	27.7.42
13.	"	9	Weissberger	Adalbert	18. 8.22	Hrabovce	Arbeiter	
14.	"	90	Weisberger	Samuel	25. 3.14	Hrabovce	Landwirt	
15.	"	1	Friedmann	Alex	15. 2.10	Varschovce	Landwirt	
16.	"	2	Polster	Jakob	21. 5.03	Ruska Poruba	Landwirt	
17.	"	3	Schlüssler	Josef	8. 1.99	Klanova	Landwirt	

Auschwitz Block 21:

Samuel # 44190

Bercho # 44189

## Auschwitz

*"We weren't too many. They put us inside the wagons. We didn't know where we were going. The trip didn't last long. We got there at about 2 in the morning. The wagons stopped. We were standing and didn't know anything. It was dark. And about 6 in the morning, 5 in the morning, they opened the wagons. The station where they left us was not too far. Suddenly we are walking for five minutes. And we see we are in Auschwitz 'Arbeit Macht Frei' (Work Sets You Free). Auschwitz, what's in Auschwitz? The process again. They took us to the bathrooms and all of that. We were standing, each one to its own destiny."*

*"One Polish prisoner came in. He was kind. It's because they were also prisoners and were taken away, in September 1939. All the big politicians were taken to the concentration camp. And there comes a soldier, and we were waiting while standing in rows. I spoke Slovak and a bit of Russian. All these Slavic languages are similar. The soldier asked in Polish, who knows how to ride a horse? What he really meant is 'who knows how to work with horses?' but his Polish was broken and we misunderstood. My brother and I we both knew how to ride horses. We were about 75 people. They separated us and they took us to work. From that point, I started to work with horses. This was in Auschwitz. This was very favorable for me."*

*"There were barracks and there was a unit of about 300 Polish prisoners. Most of them intellectuals, politicians. We were about 75 Jews. We suffer so much there. Because what was our work? I would like to elaborate on this. There were about 5 or 6 barracks of horses where we would work with the Polish. We all had different jobs. We were the first unit to wake up. Some worked in the gas chambers, others in other places. In the morning, we were the first ones. Our commando was named Landershcatt. Everybody else was still sleeping. It was three in the morning. It would take us two hours to prepare the horses and feed them and everything. Then they would take us to do other work. But my job was not too difficult. We would go to work at 9 in the morning and come back at 3 in the morning. Until we finished with all the horses, and we were standing all day. And for everyone the food was the same. All they would give us was (sulagar?) It was a little (wurst). Twice a week a little piece. I remember when the Polish had the right to receive a package of a 1 kilogram weight to Auschwitz. I don't know if this was common, but like I said, I was with prisoners who were intellectuals and politicians... they weren't Jewish... They were 300 Aryans, politicians, and all that. We were 75 Jewish boys from Poland, Holland and Czechoslovakia."*

*"When I got to Auschwitz it was not completely built. The cabins were not complete. When I got there, I would bring construction material from the station. We were the first ones there. There were not any gas chambers yet... In July, they started building the gas chambers. I never mention this because I don't want them to say... I started bringing materials. There are two stations in Auschwitz. One was the main one where most of the Jews would arrive and they*

*would do the selection. The other one was where all the material would arrive. So, I would bring the material used to build the gas chambers. The bricks and all that. I never dared to mention this, that at 18 years old I am building a gas chamber. I only realized afterwards."*

*"Auschwitz was very rough. Working 12 hours straight. Standing all the time. And we were fed very little. I would never forget the first days. Because I wouldn't eat anything. The first day they brought me and my brother some bread, 250 grams, and a soup. We would eat very slowly. When I got the bread, I decided to eat only half or one third so I could save it for the next day. Maybe I would decide to take another bite before putting it away for tomorrow. And then I would eat one more bite, and I started crying, and before I knew it I did end up finishing it. It was horrible because that was the entire portion for the day. And that's the way it was every single day. Those are the details that I remember. The work was very very hard, but it was still better than at other places. In other places, they would work day and night and they were beaten all the time. I would have a little bit more facilities. I wouldn't have someone on top of me all the time. And I was with my brother."*

*"One time I got beaten up. The time at Auschwitz was the most critical. I don't even know how I survived. I tell you, my parents are really the ones who saved me... I will tell you. In all my dangers, they saved me. There is a saying in Yiddish 'They had my right hand over myself'. No one would be able to survive from what they fed us. When they fed the horses, I would sit down and eat with them. I would eat anything. I was lucky nothing happened to me. We would be working and the Jews from Holland would arrive. They would die like flies. My stomach held on a bit more."*

*"During July and August, we started to get weak. My brother was swollen from hunger. There were so many things happening. I had a problem with my leg. I had a hole, rotten rotten rotten. I kept working and I honestly don't know how it got healed. In the morning, they would call out our numbers. We were 4 or 5 with those horses... They suddenly say my number in German. They took me and the polish guy with an SS man about 10 or 12 km away. At a farm. We had to take some materials. At noon, there was a one-hour long break. So, they can feed the horses. And we were just sitting there. They wouldn't feed us. Just the horses. They would only feed us at night when we got back. And so, I was with this polish guy. Non-Jewish. And one old SS man, I already knew him because I would see him daily. He would sit with his gun. He fell asleep a little bit and me too. They suddenly told us to wake up and the polish guy escaped. It is over. Can you imagine? Some soldiers arrived in motorcycles and they started to beat us. They asked us, where is he? They were beating me on the head. Like if I was on a shower of blood. Blood coming out of my head. It got to the point where I wasn't even feeling anything anymore. The alarm sounded because someone escaped. I finally got to my cabin. Number 4."*



*"Anyways, so at night I wouldn't even be allowed to change my clothes. Some people were telling me they were going to take me Politische Abteilung (Political Department). That means a jury of the worst crimes. Nobody would come out of there. They would take them to the gas chambers and that's it. I thought, it might be for the best, my leg is rotten anyways. I eventually found some rack to cover my leg with. So, they wouldn't see it when I got to the Politische Abteilung. I didn't even know how to speak. I got to the offices with that leg. They came for my brother and told him he is no longer able to work. And they took him. I thought they would take him directly to the gas chamber. Anyways, I will get back to that. But I got to the Politische Abteilung in the morning. Someone from my bloc took me. So, in the office there was someone about 35 years old. Sitting down. I was standing. He looks at me and asks me 'Where were you born?', I told him I was born in Czechoslovakia. He asked me in what language do you want to declare? He asked me in Slovak. This motherfucker knew how to speak every language. I just thought it would be easier and better to speak in German. He was actually quite polite. To a degree. I started saying what happened. I was there for 4 or 5 hours. Repeating myself. He wanted to see if I was part of the escape. He would scream at me in German. And I don't know, I felt that my parents were guiding me. From above, they would guide me on what to say. That's how I feel. I was repeating the same thing and being consistent. I wouldn't make a mistake. I wasn't getting nervous or intimidated. They were trying to get me confused and fall apart. But I didn't. After 5 hours. That's how I was saved. They were pressuring me. They would make me stand and then turn, and then walk, they had me like a dog. Provoking me. I thought they were going to take me to the gas chamber. I wasn't even scared anymore. Not because I was brave. I just didn't care anymore. I knew I wouldn't suffer, I knew how it works. I would suffer 5 minutes and that's it. Gone. It's over with a leg like this anyways. I can't keep going like this. And then to my surprise, suddenly they take me back to my bloc. They told me 'you son of a bitch, if you know the Polish, you better watch out.'"*

*"One day I got back and my brother was not there. I thought that's it, that's that. On the second day they told me that the capo cannot do it anymore. You need to present yourself at the infirmary. You know where. It is not possible with an infection, with a hole, with a rotten knee. I stood up, said goodbye to my friends, and went along to the infirmary. And they didn't take me straight. They took extra rounds, it's almost funny how much my knee hurt. Two Polish guys put me in a room. They were prisoners too. According to them, they were doctors. Nurses. They laid me down on a wooden bed. They told me: Jew. Why did they bring you here? Resolute. It's over. They were looking at my leg, and started beating me up. They yelled at me: 'Enough! Give up!'. They began to humiliate me: 'Have you ever even been with a girl? How old are you?' They were telling me some horrible things... They gave me a eulogy but with insults. I wasn't even scared, to be honest. I was ready. I didn't even care anymore. I thought it's about time. Let's get it over with... When one is in those dangers in those circumstances... I wasn't begging god, I was*

*begging my parents. Asking them to not leave me, to hold my right hand. I can't even. I can't even get too much into this."*

*"These guys saw my leg, I don't even know if they felt sorry for me. They eventually cleaned me up. They gave me something and I fell asleep. After all they yelled at me and insulted me, they put me asleep. I thought my life was over. But they cured me. They fixed my leg, and I never saw them again. They got me into the infirmary. I don't even know how. I recognize it, that there was some sort of miracle. They weren't even doctors. They weren't even professionals. They healed me and took me to the infirmary. They put me in a bed. I was so surprised, when they gave me a bed. And then I saw my brother [Samuel] there. What was going on? I couldn't believe it. What is my brother doing here? When I saw my brother, I didn't even have any strength. I couldn't even speak. I was so swollen. What a coincidence. I come to a bed next to my brother. The infirmary was full twice a week. It would be over. [Joseph] Mengele would arrive. The angel of death they used to call him."*

*"Twice a week. They were counting us. And he was sitting there. He had a pencil. Whoever he didn't like, he will write his number down and they will take him immediately. Out of the hospital. And 5 minutes after he was seeing him. And they were going to the gas chamber. One day I was standing with my brother in front of Mengele. That was our destiny. Our god. He had the power. He writes down my brother's number. 10 minutes after they took him. I couldn't even cry because I had no tears. I couldn't even see, 30 minutes later, the smoke. That was it. That was September 17, 1942."*

*"This is what happened. I stayed there. Not at the hospital, at the infirmary. There was a worker who I knew. From Humenné. He was a friend. His job was to take out the dead. Each one had their work. His name was Bubble Bittelman... One day, Bittleman, he tells me, Berko, you have to get discharged. You won't get by Mengele. I used to see Mengele every day. He was friends with some of our bosses. But he was a 'trishafir', a 'rottenführer' [troop leader]. We knew what type of person. One day I was missing from the infirmary and I went back to my job... They gave me a pasta like they do it here, with a lot of oil and fat, and with a paper towel. The next day I went to work, destiny, I didn't have the right to live. I had to go to work with my horses."*

*"Suddenly I had the order to go to a cabin, and there were all these wagons coming with Jews and their luggage, they were coming from France, and Holland, and Greece. I had never met Jews from there. And so, I was going crazy. With all of this. I first looked for some shoes and I found some. Not the exact measure but very good shoes. And I found some socks. It was a miracle. I put them on immediately thank god. I felt like in the middle of all this danger someone was protecting me. It was me and a Polish man looking for something. He was looking for money. I couldn't put on a shirt because our shirts had lines. But I got some shoes and I think socks. Suddenly I found a piece of bread, rounded, and I put it in my mouth and eat it. But the*

*bread was so hard, like a rock. But I did what I could, with my saliva I made it softer, like a madman. Then suddenly I see something green. But I kept licking and licking the bread like a crazy person. And there is more and more green coming out. And so I finally see that it is a green money bill. I knew it had to be dollars. People would do that. Like one day my brother sent me to make some good shoes for the winter. And the shoemaker who was Jewish gave me 5 dollars or 10 dollars, whatever he could, so maybe it would save my life. I never saw him again. So, people would take things and money wherever they could. I didn't even care if this bill was a dollar or 5. I took it and saved it. But not in my pockets. I put it in the molding horse. Because I was scared that they would find it and they would punish me. I put it inside and I went with my boss from the barn. A Polish man."*

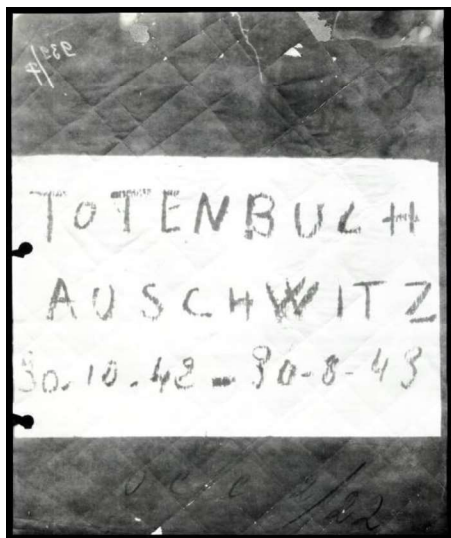
*"In my job if you didn't do it right, they would beat you up. The SS. Because I had to clean up the horse. So, I told my boss 'look what I found, a bill'. And I gave it to him. I don't even know how I would do these things. I don't know who was guiding me to survival. But at night, he pointed at me and told me to come over. They brought the soup and everything. And he told me Jidek. Jidek was a word for Jews but softer than Juden and other words. He tells me 'Are you hungry?'. And so every day he would give me an extra liter of soup until I got better. Can you believe it? That was my salvation. I can't even believe how this happened... How did all of this happen? How would I get out of danger one time after another?"*

*"Anyways, so one day all the polish people in Auschwitz, in the winter... They didn't want to have them anymore cause there were a lot of thing. They took all of them. They took them to Germany. And so, we stayed. And more Jews came from different parts. Russia, Ukraine. So, we worked together. And so at that point I felt like I could survive. I would go to work... I could bare the hunger. And there are many people who couldn't in Auschwitz. I would steal one or two things and stuff like that. I was able to survive. But it was really difficult to see all of this that was happening. Every day they would bring more people. And more and more and more wagons would come in."*

*"I got to Auschwitz at the end of June 1942 and was there until September 1943. One day in September at night after work. And they call the number and he doesn't come out in the morning, couldn't leave to work. This was September 1943. And I would see with some of my friends. And so, we see that there was some transportation to take us somewhere else. But we knew at this point that we could survive in Auschwitz. But there was transportation and there was nothing we could do. And we knew there were bringing Jews from Holland and Greece. And so, they took us like five or six thousand from Auschwitz, Birkenau and put us in transportation. We were not all from the same group of people who worked together. I happened to end up with my friend and a couple of others. They put us in the wagons and took us. I don't even know*

how long it took but not too long. And so, we arrived in the morning and we see some little streets. And where are we? We were at the ghetto in Warsaw."

### Auschwitz death records for Samuel Weisberger (prisoner #44190)



### Auschwitz "Death Book"

3 November, 1942, Prisoner 44190 was cremated

30.10.42	30.10.42	30.10.42	30.10.42	30.10.42	30.10.42
1. 51.62410-20	1. 32.119.21	26. 63178-21	1. 59362-21	1. 58.109.20	26. 70126-20
2. 52.67022-20	2. 69329.22	27. 67668-28	2. 60009-28	2. 67273-28	27. 69430-28
3. 53.67353-21	3. 65849-20	28. 23023-21	3. 60116-21	3. 66964-21	28. 70096-21
4. 54.63137-21	4. 65336-22	29. 41814-21	4. 67533-21	4. 65184-22	29. 22615-20
5. 55.69191-21	5. 47718-20	30. 43703-21	5. 63476-21	5. 69076-22	30. 72125-21
6. 60510-21	6. 62043-21	31. 54951-21	6. 63540-21	6. 63540-21	31. 45936-21
7. 66893-21	7. 64036-21	32. 67685-21	7. 63945-21	7. 67061-21	32. 72107-21
8. 57.59192-20	8. 61543-21	33. 67668-21	8. 65079-21	8. 67061-21	33. 66492-15
9. 58.57503-21	9. 66036-21	34. 56735-21	9. 65398-21	9. 65398-21	34. 45645-21
10. 65211-21	10. 65211-21	35. 67615-21	10. 66857-21	10. 64092-21	35. 54138-21
11. 63914-21	11. 63914-21	36. 67637-21	11. 66169-21	11. 57132-21	
12. 64409-21	12. 64409-21	37. 67661-21	12. 66236-21	12. 65718-21	
13. 53953-21	13. 53953-21	38. 48674-21	13. 67477-21	13. 65602-21	
14. 67848-21	14. 67848-21	39. 54593-21	14. 67803-21	14. 68121-21	36. 62847-20
15. 64207-21	15. 64207-21	40. 55690-21	15. 67847-21	15. 66004-21	37. 69873-21
16. 66271-21	16. 66271-21	41. 48677-21	16. 68012-21	16. 65640-21	38. 71049-21
17. 66201-21	17. 66201-21	42. 67640-21	17. 69963-21	17. 65261-21	39. 61511-21
18. 66271-21	18. 66271-21	43. 67641-21	18. 60947-21	18. 68017-21	40. 64675-21
19. 61956-21	19. 61956-21	44. 67642-21	19. 67483-21	19. 65609-21	41. 67224-21
20. 68083-21	20. 68083-21	45. 67655-21	20. 65406-21	20. 62464-21	
21. 66127-21	21. 66127-21	46. 67657-21		21. 66475-21	
22. 60392-21	22. 60392-21	47. 67658-21		22. 55711-21	
23. 67598-21	23. 67598-21	48. 44190-21		23. 63839-21	
24. 41159-21	24. 41159-21	49. 59333-21		24. 64480-21	
25. 66300-21	25. 66300-21			25. 41277-21	

Samuel Weisberger Death Record from Auschwitz  
3 November, 1942 – Pneumonia

Nr. 38488/1942 (974) C<sup>1</sup>

Auschwitz, den 9. November 1942

Der Landwirt Samuel Weisberger

mosaisch

wohnhaft Arabovce, Hauptgasse Nr. 69, Slowakei

Ist am 3. November 1942 um 15 Uhr 55 Minuten

in Auschwitz, Kasernenstrasse verstorben.

Der Verstorbene war geboren am 25. März 1914

in Arabovce

(Standesamt Nr. )

Vater: Philipp Weisberger, wohnhaft in Arabovce

Mutter: Maria Weisberger geborene Tobias, wohnhaft in Arabovce

Der Verstorbene war nicht verheiratet

Eingetragen auf mündliche — schriftliche Anzeige des Arztes Doktor der Medizin Kitt in Auschwitz vom 3. November 1942

Der Anzeigende

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und unterschrieben

Die Übereinstimmung mit dem Erstbuch wird beglaubigt.

Auschwitz, den 9. 11. 1942

Der Standesbeamte  
In Vertretung  
Quakernaack

Todesursache: Pneumonia

Eheschliessung des Verstorbenen am in

(Standesamt Nr. ).

Archiwum Muzeum Auschwitz / Auschwitz Museum's Archive



### Warsaw Ghetto (after the uprising)

*"I got to the ghetto of Warsaw in September 1943. But I wasn't in the ghetto of Warsaw when it was happening {The Warsaw Uprising}. I got there later. I came from Auschwitz, because it is known that on the historic 19th of April 1943 it was over. And so, we got there to clean the ghetto of Warsaw."*

*"It was evacuated (or liquidated) in April and it was all rotten at that point. And so, we had to clean it. And later one [transport] they brought more people from Hungary. They were brought not from Auschwitz but directly from other places. The surprise was that the first day, they brought us and just so you have an idea, it was like when there was the earthquake here {Mexico City}... That was how I saw the ghetto of Warsaw. All bombed. We went in to clean it. There was a head here and there, pieces of people. All these bodies, a disgrace. We had to clean that. We had to burn this. Imagine what a surprise. I thought how all these people were hidden here, and now here I was after was cleaning it. It was horrible, to see a face of the head of a child all these."*

*"And the thing that stayed with me is that the ghetto was completely full of letters. I will never forget this. People knew that it was the end. So, they would leave all these letters and messages. 'Whoever finds this letter, my name is... such and such, and I am the end... If I have a family I want to let you know. If there is anyone still alive...'. It was horrible to read these letters. People were saying goodbye. I don't know if these letters were saved. I've heard that some of these were saved but I don't think so cause I go every year [to the museums?] and I've never seen any of these letters. Or maybe we burned them and stuff. But I tell you, it stayed with me."*

*"Every day, every day, cleaning and cleaning. And we started to get sick. I was wearing the same shirt all the time. I was rotten with lice. And if I got one at night I would eat it. I wouldn't even have a choice. And diseases started. Typhus, it was horrible. It was a disease that a lot of friends got. And a lot of them were affected by it forever, because the temperature in these cases. I call it tyfo or typhus, whatever it is called. My friend got sick with this, I don't even know how he survived it. At sometimes even some of the people from the SS got tyfo, that is how bad it was. But if we had to go to the bathroom, and there were lice and there was hunger. I couldn't even find a part of my body that it was not red from the blood that they would take from me (the lice/bugs). That was from September until July or August that I was at the ghetto in Warsaw."*

*"Later... the Russians got to the Germans in Poland. What I want to say is that I got sick. I couldn't walk. This was 3 days before they evacuated us. They put me in the infirmary. I couldn't walk. I remember it was a Jewish doctor. I don't know if he gave me an injection. And another*

*day a friend came, David Klein, he was from Slovakia. He saw I was hospital and he took me out just like that, even how sick I was. And the next day we were evacuated. This same day, everyone who was in Infirmary, they killed them all. Cause they wouldn't take them. Can you believe it? My friend took me out by force."*

*"They [Nazi's] took us by force. And they took us by foot. The Russians were behind us. I thought our salvation would be right there. But they took us out by foot. It was such an unbearable heat to be walking. Some would fall dead... All Poland was full of blood. Damn Poland. We got there by night. After like four days walking. At night, they gave us a piece of bread. My mouth was completely dry. I really wanted to eat it but my mouth was dry and my stomach was dry. I couldn't even chew it. The second or third days, we were all going crazy. We all went crazy because of the thirst. One day we reached a river. We all saw the river and immediately went in it, in front of the people from SS. And they killed a lot of us at that point. But we didn't care because we were going crazy with the river. I remember how we got to the river and we started drinking. But I was scared because the river was running, and I was scared it was going to leave. That's how crazy we were. And at some point, they blocked us but we weren't even listening to them. We only cared about the water. Anyways, but they finally pulled us out of the river and into the wagons that were all ready. And we got to Dachau."*

#### **Dachau/ Muhldorf & Waldlager V (Dachau Subcamps in Ampfing, Germany)**

*"In Dachau, we were only 2 or 3 days. They separated us in groups. All Poland was a disaster, and at this point they started taking some of us to Germany. They took me to Waldlager, a mountain near Munich. They built cabins and made us work again. It is almost funny, how these bastards... We started building an airport. They wanted to build an airport to France...underground." [Underground installation for the production of the Messerschmitt 262 (Me-262) jet fighter]*

*"It was like the history of the Jews, how we were in Egypt, maybe it was even worse. We were carrying cement to the machines where they work with it. We would put it in and pssss... I had a job and then another, and so in the concentration camps, on each one I had a very different job. Through a friend I got a really good job that saved me. Everything was mountains, all the transportation that was made for the construction were those little wagons that would carry the material. The tracks and everything, and through the mountains would go the train. My job was called 'wikensctele (?)'. I was standing and one was... he would show me where to... what direction... with the machine. Like someone who would work on the railroad. Would change the engine. That would last a while, and it was a horrible job because we had this other organization, not the SS, another company that was checking on us."*

*"Until April 24 or 25 of 1945. It had started that they were in danger. One day they started evacuating where we were working, on the Waldlager. Because during those times there were concentration camps on the mountains. Waldlager 1, Waldlager Suail and so we suddenly saw that they were taking this and that and it was the 'walk of death', because Hitler said that 'A Jew, even at the end, don't even save anything, just don't leave one Jew alive'."*

### Dachau Prisoner Arrival Log – 6 August, 1944 (Prisoner #87582)

Prisoner #	Arrival Date	Name	Origin	Prisoner #	Arrival Date	Name	Origin
87581	6 August 1944	Alteiss	Charles	87582	6 August 1944	Hoch	Fang
87582	"	Olaser	Ernst	87583	"	Kestler	Moses
87583	"	Neumann	Otto	87584	"	Teuerstein	Peter
87584	"	Kruh	Walter	87585	"	Schwarz	Isidor
87585	"	Wandersmann	Schulzger	87586	"	Schwarz	Niklaus
87586	"	Goldminz	Isid	87587	"	Schwarz	Abraham
87587	"	Dukiewicz	Kuba	87588	"	Burger	Andre
87588	"	Molcho	Michel	87589	"	Goldschmidt	Ralf
87589	"	Silberberg	Mayer	87590	"	Allouf	Elie
87590	"	Sabotai	Anef	87591	"	Olut	Marcel
87591	"	Sendor	Isaak	87592	"	Dessau	Raphael
87592	"	Hornat	Lazar	87593	"	Judovits	Samuel
87593	"	Solomon	Amarillo	87594	"	Weiss	Wilhelm
87594	"	Majer	Manuel	87595	"	Szykman	Wolf
87595	"	Dzerazy	Josef	87596	"	Prine	Hugo
87596	"	Allalluf	Vital	87597	"	Drechler	Adolf
87597	"	Goldstein	Zoltan	87598	"	Miedzinski	Maurice
87598	"	Ochrowsitz	Schaja	87599	"	Arana	Isak
87599	"	Schajewicz	Gutmann	87600	"	Krupka	Schlama
87600	"	Chononowicz	Abraham	87601	"	Achana	Moses
87601	"	Boruchowitsch	Mendel	87602	"	Weisz	Zolta
87602	"	Orin	Wilhelm	87603	"	Weisz	Ernst
87603	"	Orin	Jeno	87604	"	Weisz	Joanah
87604	"	Finkelstein	Moritz	87605	"	Schwarz	Oeng
87605	"	Finkelstein	Martin	87606	"	Bleich	Naphthali
87606	"	Finkelstein	Jeno	87607	"	Weisz	Adolf
87607	"	Burger	Ferenc	87608	"	Kornfeld	Arpad
87608	"	Michaly	Saador	87609	"	Wetsler	Vojtech
87609	"	David	Alexander	87610	"	Grosinger	Jakob
87610	"	Herskowits	Isak	87611	"	Wetsler	Isidor
87611	"	Herskowits	Bernard	87612	"	Weisberger	Albert

# Mühldorf (Dachau subcamp) prisoner card and his prisoner questionnaire

KL. DACHAU		T.D. Nr.	847784
WEISBERGER		Albert	
geb. Ort	geb. Ort	HAB-Nr.	
18.8.1923	Cherabowce	87582	
HAB. Pers. Karte . . . . .	Mil. Gov. Quest. . . . .	Dokumente: 2	
Effektenkarte . . . . .	Wald-Friedhof . . . . .		
Effektenverzeichnis . . . . .	Todesmeldung . . . . .	Inf. Karten:	
Postkont.-Karte . . . . .	Leichenschauchein . . . . .	Bemerkungen:	
Schreibst.-Karte . . . . .	Zahnbehandlungskarte . . . . .		
HAB. Pers. Bogen . . . . .	Korrespondenz . . . . .	Umschlag-Nr.:	
Mühldorf-H.P.K. . . . .	Röntgen-Kontrolle . . . . .		
Krankenblätter . . . . .	Soz. Vers. Unterlagen . . . . .		
Hospitalkarte . . . . .	Sterbeurkunde . . . . .		
Geldverw.-Karte . . . . .			
HAB. Unters. Bogen . . . . .			

**Konzentrationslager** *Dacha* Art der Haft: *Ch. Ind.* Gef. Nr.: *87582*

Name und Vorname: *WEISBERGER ALBERT*  
geb.: *18.8.23* zu: *Cherabowce (Slowak)*  
Wohnort: *Cherabowce*  
Beruf: *Arbeiter* Rel.: *Ung.*  
Staatsangehörigkeit: *Slowak.* Stand: *ledig.*  
Name der Eltern: *Filip Maria* Rasse: *Slow.*  
Wohnort: *Cherabowce*  
Name der Ehefrau: *Teodora* Rasse: *Slow.*  
Wohnort: *Cherabowce*

Kinder: ☒ Alleiniger Ernährer der Familie oder der Eltern: ☒  
Vorbildung: *Volksschule*  
Militärdienstzeit: *2* von — bis —  
Kriegsdienstzeit: *2* von — bis —  
Größe: *162* Nase: *prop.* Haare: *schw.* Gestalt: *—*  
Mund: *—* Bart: *—* Gesicht: *—* Ohren: *—*  
Sprache: *deutsch, Slowak.* Augen: *—* Zähne: *—*  
Ansteckende Krankheit oder Gebrechen: *—*  
Besondere Kennzeichen: *—*  
Rentenempfänger: *—*

Verhaftet am: *3.6.42* wo: *Cherabowce*  
1. Mal eingeliefert: *—* 2. Mal eingeliefert: *—*  
Einweisende Dienststelle: *—*  
Grund: *—*  
Parteilzugehörigkeit: *—* von — bis —  
Weiche Funktionen: *—*  
Mitglied v. Unterorganisationen: *—*  
Kriminelle Vorstrafen: *—*  
Politische Vorstrafen: *—*

Ich bin darauf hingewiesen worden, dass meine Bestrafung wegen intellektueller Urkundenfälschung erfolgt, wenn sich die obigen Angaben als falsch erweisen sollten.  
*v. 2. u. [Signature]* Der Lagerkommandant



## Waldlager V (Mühldorf) Arrival record - January 14, 1945

Ein- trags- Nr.	Name und Anschrift des Erwerbers	Nr. des Transportes	Ort des Transportes	Beschreibung des Transportes	Ein- trags- Nr.	Name und Anschrift des Erwerbers	Nr. des Transportes	Ort des Transportes	Beschreibung des Transportes
715	U. 87485 Kolesar, Hanna	10.8.16		Arbeiter	719	U. 87570 Blerab, Rastal	28.5.45	Bardeyev	Trichter
716	" 488 Lebowitz, Hanna	28.2.25	Munkacs	"	720	" 577 Weiss, Carl	2.1.21	Nika	Trichter
717	" 489 Grünberg, Hermann	3.9.23		Schuster	721	" 579 Weiser, Wjstos	10.9.23		Trichter
718	" 492 Friedman, Arthur	10.7.22	Stettin	Schneider	722	" 580 Grossinger, Jakob	29.2.40	Topolnany	Trichter
719	" 494 Spierer, Dora	12.3.27	Klausen	"	723	" 581 Rosenthal, David	4.2.18	Leunau	Trichter
720	" 497 Weiser, Moritz	10.5.05	Sonnev	Schneider	724	" 582 Weissberger, Albert	11.8.25	Halsbach	Trichter
721	" 499 Weiss, Josef	11.1.24	"	"	725	" 583 Weiss, David	10.10.20	Neumark	"
722	" 501 Reumann, David	12.8.29		Trichter	726	" 584 Jostler, Carl	14.12.21	Wien	Trichter
723	" 502 Frisch, Jacob	5.8.00		l. Arb.	727	" 585 Grünfeld, Jakob	22.3.23	Strobel	Schuster
724	" 503 Frisch, Carl	20.8.27		Arbeiter	728	" 586 Rosenberg, Hermann	27.5.22		Trichter
725	P. 515 Bruck, Josef	14.8.26	Munkacs	Kampfer	729	U. 587 Drob, Irma	5.8.20	Pelzner	"
726	" 516 Weiss, Moritz	19.1.23	Lode	Trichter	730	R. 588 Galsman, Wolf	5.8.10	Leinwand	"
727	U. 519 Grazi, Ben-Zion	14.1.30	Pilz	Schüler	731	U. 589 Mayerkowitz, Wjstos	5.8.27	Tomashow	Schneider
728	P. 526 Goldmann, David	15.8.25		Trichter	732	" 590 Scheier, David	11.12.27	Kala	Koch
729	" 527 Justiz, Hanna	7.8.22	Baumgarten	"	733	U. 591 Weiss, Moritz	15.12.23	Leinwand	Schneider
730	U. 531 Goldstein, Hanna	15.1.30		Schüler	734	U. 592 Birnbaum, David	21.12.24	Kammach	Trichter
731	U. 533 Bachmann, David	10.5.21		Arbeiter	735	U. 593 Kozak, David	28.7.20		Trichter
732	U. 539 Schatzman, Hanna	10.8.29	Leinwand	l. Arb.	736	U. 594 Reichmann, Hanna	14.8.20	Leinwand	"
733	U. 540 Schatzman, Hanna	17.8.27	Leinwand	"	737	U. 595 Kozak, David	8.12.19	Leinwand	Schneider
734	" 541 Baruch, Hanna	25.11.13		Koch	738	U. 596 Kozak, David	28.10.19	Leinwand	Trichter
735	U. 542 Grün, Wilhelm	20.2.26		l. Arb.	739	U. 597 Kozak, David	8.12.26	Kala	Leinwand
736	" 543 Grün, Jacob	8.8.26		Arbeiter	740	" 598 Kozak, David	31.8.22	Leinwand	Schneider
737	" 544 Burger, Hanna	17.12.26	Oranien	l. Arb.	741	" 599 Kozak, David	28.9.21	Leinwand	"
738	" 545 Munkacs, Hanna	16.8.05		"	742	" 600 Kozak, David	4.12.23	Leinwand	Schneider
739	" 546 David, Hanna	3.8.21	Leinwand	"	743	" 601 Kozak, David	28.9.21	Leinwand	"
740	" 547 Leinwand, Hanna	8.8.14		"	744	" 602 Kozak, David	28.9.21	Leinwand	"
741	" 548 Burger, Hanna	2.8.22		Schneider	745	" 603 Kozak, David	28.9.21	Leinwand	"
742	" 549 Kozak, Hanna	2.1.27	Silberberg	Trichter	746	" 604 Kozak, David	28.9.21	Leinwand	"
743	U. 566 Hirsch, Hanna	20.11.22	Silberberg	Schneider	747	" 605 Kozak, David	28.9.21	Leinwand	"
744	U. 567 Drob, Hanna	5.12.25	Nika	Schneider	748	" 606 Kozak, David	28.9.21	Leinwand	"
745	P. 570 Kozak, Hanna	5.5.28	Lode	Trichter	749	" 607 Kozak, David	28.9.21	Leinwand	"
746	U. 571 Kozak, Hanna	15.12.26	Silberberg	Trichter	750	" 608 Kozak, David	28.9.21	Leinwand	"
747	U. 573 Weiss, Hanna	27.4.27	Kala	Trichter	751	" 609 Kozak, David	28.9.21	Leinwand	"
748	U. 575 Weiss, Hanna	10.8.14	Topol	Trichter	752	" 610 Kozak, David	28.9.21	Leinwand	"

### Death March & Liberation

"They put us inside the wagons. Where? We were going nowhere. I realized that because Bavaria and Munich are in the mountains and when we got close to the window, some of our people they would take them through the mountains. There were thousands. They took them there and left them there and got rid of them. The most tragic. The end was near. We were friends for so many years. We suffered so much together in Auschwitz, and in Majdanek and everything, and couldn't bear a bit more. The hunger dominated and we couldn't do anything. We were saying that we have survived suffering for three or more years, and maybe if we hold on a little longer, in one hour or two hours or 10 hours, our salvation may come. We have to bear it and hold on. We were motivating and encouraging one another. Supporting one another. But some couldn't hold on anymore. It could have been me or someone else. That was the most painful thing for me. That we were all these time... These things stay with you."

"And so, on May 1st, 1945 we were shut inside the wagons waiting for our destiny. And suddenly we hear a horrible scream in the middle of the wagon. There were many deaths that couldn't bear it anymore. Without a soul, without anything. There is no one giving us anything.



*And a horrible scream. They were not opening the wagons and people were screaming. They came up and started opening the wagons. And we were free."*

*"We were liberated by the Americans. We were liberated by the Americans because I got to be in Germany. Some were liberated by the Russians. But I want to tell you something before I am done. I wasn't so grateful. It is my opinion that I can give. Each one can tell you theirs. I had a lot of resentment and anger towards them. It is very interesting for me to tell you. I remember 1938 when I heard the first speech by Hitler that I told you a while ago. "Die Juden, die Juden, our disgrace". Do you think that the Americans didn't know? I am going to tell you something. When we got together over there, I thought about it, these ideas, the Czechoslovakian Jew, I didn't believe in the Messiah, I believed more in America, in United States. After Hitler, when he spoke, the ones who were there, we said that this couldn't last. America. America will save us."*

*"Well, another point. When I was in Warsaw for three months, in Auschwitz, one transportation of Czechoslovakians got there too. And just when they got there I was already with the stomach... and they were still... One has to bear three months, because the Americans are not going to let it happen. And so, a year went by, two years, and I don't see the Americans."*

*"And I want to say this, when the Americans saved us, one day, once we were already there, at the cabins, because they stayed there for six months, and everyone stayed and they were looking for a place to go, to immigrate. One day, I have a witness, who was with me. I don't know if he spoke with you. They told us that Eisenhower was coming. Eisenhower was the commander of Europe who was doing all these things. The wines got there and prayers... We weren't in favor of it. We couldn't do anything, we were half dead. I was very angry. That's why I want to say it here. General Eisenhower was the boss in Europe. He came to give us condolences and he said amen, and everything. And we couldn't do anything. We were angry. It was horrible. After they killed my parents and everyone, you come in to give me your condolences? You are a chief, and you knew, and all of you knew exactly what was going on daily in Auschwitz. You knew, how many thousands of people. But you, son of a bitch, didn't have the guts to bomb the gas chambers to end it. That was our resentment with them. Because they knew everything. But they were scared that a bomb was going to affect them, that they would lose the war. To save the Jews... that's what I wanted to say. Why do you come to give me your condolences?"*

*"Sometimes one can say, how the hunger can dominate. Hunger can be so cruel. I want to say cause words, I want to swear. Such a fucking... I remember when they opened the wagons, whoever was able, however, just advance to a city. So hungry, one would ask god, there wasn't a day that would go by, because we are in a country that... One can compare. And so we were going to a town or city called Feldafing [Germany]. Can you imagine how destroyed it was? Unbelievable. People sick and hungry. It was horrible. People started eating desperately. And so*

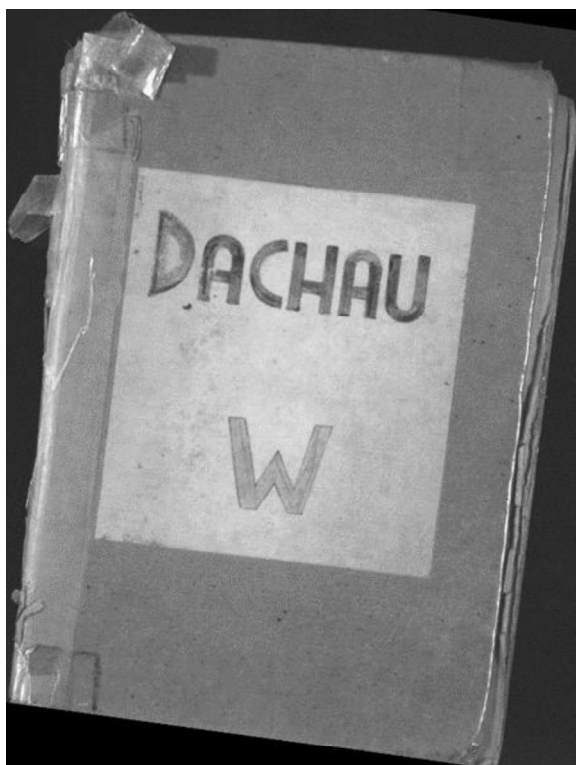
*next morning thousands of people were dead. What happened? Can you believe it? People were not measuring themselves. Because our stomachs shrank so much all these years. And suddenly one starts to... Death for sure. It's over. Nobody warned us. I have a lot of resentment with that, with the Americans."*

*"We started to get better and so they put us in some cabins where the Jugend [youth] were living. Hitler Jugend [Youth], all these capos and bosses. It was a place where the soldiers lived, not soldiers but the Jugend, the ones who prepared the... the Hitlerian Youth."*

*"Liberated. It took a month. Everything was fixed and everything. They gave us diversions for a little bit. Dances. Women and everything. Once I was healthy, a little bit recovered, I remember one day... So we got there with women. We went out with some women. At night I got to the cabins. I was really happy of how I ended up. And suddenly I started feeling terrible. I got a bit of shock. I wasn't the only one. What was this? That all this time I was not thinking about my parents and my siblings, because my mind was all hunger hunger hunger hunger. And so one night after a month I started to do... I started to remember my father and my mother and two brothers and my two sisters, they are in the woods [behind Auschwitz]. They are there, the ashes. My brother... What do I need my freedom for? I just started to feel this horrible shock. My friend got there, and they are like Berko, what happened? I couldn't control myself. I was losing my memory. Afterwards, once free, then I saw what it was all about. What was the freedom for if I don't have anyone? So what? Am I going to get a medal? I was so furious."*

*"And so, at that point I decided, I was going to take a chance and go back to Czechoslovakia. And at that point the guys were there. And we had a German old guy, who he was, I don't know. He had a warehouse. He had some wines, and when we arrived, two hundred barrels. Wealth. I don't know who was guiding me or what, but one morning, or night, I went there. And I told them, in Hebrew, I mean in German, I said, 'I want a gun, and you better find it for me'. I am just saying what happened to me. I want to be done already. And I said, 'Morgen, morgen ich es will.' in German. 'Tomorrow, tomorrow I want it.' I told him this. I am taking my chance and going to Czechoslovakia. Just one condition that I want to take. I want, if I don't find anything, I want to take some revenge from people. People who made fun of my dad when they took him. And then I will go to the cemetery where my grandfather is to visit and if I don't find the tomb... I go... I am done. For what? that's that..."*

*"A few friends and I decided to go back. We went to Munich. All the embassies in Europe were very willing. They had buses to take us back to our land. Each one to where they came from. We got to Munich, registered, and they took us to Prague, the first capital. There we were processed, health standards. They gave me a bit of money so I can have to eat for about six months. We were walking towards Prague. And suddenly I see someone who also was saved, and died later in Toronto, a few years ago. He had a business, near the student. He sold paper*



and stuff like that. He told me in Slovak, 'Weissberger, your brother Vilmosh is alive and living in Humenné'. When I heard that, I fainted right there on the streets of Prague. Can you imagine? We are walking... I threw away the gun. That was over. And later I got to the house where I found my two brothers, in Humenné. That's the story."

# Liberation Record – 1 May, 1945

<div> <div>Dachau</div> <div>6456/No. 11</div> <div>136</div> </div>				
Weissberg	24.11.18	Warschau	127 083	17.11.44 Sa.
Israel	Sachsenhausen	Leschko 33	Sch.J.P.	gest. Kaufer.
Weissberg	22.1.14	Paris, 24 Bl. St.	126 965	17.11.44 Sa.
Isidor	Bereitovjalu	German	Sch.J.Pra.	beir. Kaufer.
Weissberg	...93	Kauen	82 373	Aug. 15.7.44
Eriel	Nagurai	-	Sch.J. Lit.	8.10.44 Au.
Weissberg	10.10.98	Frankfurt/Main	13 884	Aug. 13.7.40
Natan	Ostrowiec	KMarsastr. 11	Sch.J. etla.	16.8.40 S.
Weissberg	25.12.27	Bey	88 015	8.8.44 Sa.
Hanu	Bey	-	Sch.J.U.	beir. Mithl.
Sajsborg	20.5.03	Donofina	13 340	Aug. 13.1.38
Wolf	Bedzin	Glowackiego 1	Sch.J.P.	untl. 21.8.38
Weissberger	2.11.06	Starokow	126 982	17.11.44 Sa.
Acoll	Strophov	-	Sch.J. Slow.	beir. Kaufer.
Weissberger	18.8.23	Chevalovos	87 582	5.8.44 Wa.
Albert	Chevalovos	-	Sch.J. Slow.	beir. Mithl.
Georg	Budapest	Arpadg. 12	Sch.U.	Aug. 7.1.45
Weissberger	28.6.04	Husenne	126 979	17.11.44 Sa.
Hermana	Husenne	-	Sch.J. low.	gest. 8.1.45
Weissberger	27.12.30	Wodslaw	87 419	14.9.41 Ng.
Julius	Krakau	Sworska 22	Sch.J.P.	2.3.42 I. Prop.
Weissberger	11.5.02	-	158 841	21.4.45 v. Pl.
For	Ugar	-	Sch.U.	beir. Dachau
Weissblach	10.8.98	Lichmannstadt	110 846	10.9.44 Sa.
Schul	Pachysucha	Sterlingstr.	Sch.J.P.	beir. Kaufer.

## **Chapter 11 - The Family after Liberation**

Finally, on January 31, 1945, after 5 months of hiding and living with the Partizans in the mountains, the family was liberated and could safely come down from the mountain.

One of the first tasks the family needed to address was the burial of Miriam Weiss. There was a Jewish cemetery down the road from the village. Jonas had Eugene attach some longer boards on a sled they had, then Eugene pulled Miriam on the sled through the snow to this Jewish cemetery that was down the road from the village, somewhat hidden in the woods. Though the ground was frozen, there were people there that helped them dig a grave and properly bury Miriam.

After leaving Liptovská Porúbka the family went back to Vyšná Radvaň. There was nothing left there anymore. The house Vilmosh built had been ransacked, and the house the Weiss family had been staying in was taken over by other people. Herman Weiss's house that he had been building was used by the locals as a stable for their horses. Since it was unfinished, nobody had tried to live in the house.

Vyšná Radvaň, along with the surrounding small villages had been economically devastated. There was very little work to be had, leaving very few ways for the family to be able to start over. The decision was made to go to Humenné which was the big city south of their village. Humenné had the better prospects for the family to find work and start moving forward again. There were cousins and friends that could help them get situated.

Before they left Vyšná Radvaň the family had one very important matter they had to attend, digging up the buried glass jug the family buried next to the house Herman Weiss was building before the family left. They found the marking on the side of the house indicating where they buried everything. The boys started digging but after a couple hours they could not find the jar. They dug all over the place and even deeper than they remembered burying it. Finally, in a fit of frustration, Eugene threw his pick ax off to the side of the house and that is when they heard the "clink" of the jar. Apparently as the loose ground from the construction settled the jar shifted from its original spot. Thankfully everything they hid was all still there.

### **Settling in Humenné**

In Humenné, the families were able to start over. Vilmosh and Tibor Weisberger along with Jonas Weiss, still had letters of credit from some of the banks they had conducted business with over the years, which the banks were still honoring. This allowed them to buy a building where the family lived and restarted their businesses.

The families lived in the apartments upstairs and Tibor Weisberger opened a General Store in the storefront of the building. He would travel back and forth from Bratislava to buy merchandise. Vilmosh Weisberger along with Hermann & Jonas Weiss went back into the lumber trade. The families started making a very comfortable living again.

All the children were able to start back at school again, attending school locally in Humenné. This was another advantage over living in the villages, where the older children had to take the train back and forth from their villages to Humenné for school before the war. They were also able to continue their Hebrew studies through a local tutor the family hired.



*Leo, Lea, ?, Morry, Reli, Herman Weiss, Margit Wohl, Michael, Gabi*



*Rozie Weisberger, Beji Guttman (cousin), Margit Wohl  
Morry Weiss, Lea Weisberger, Michael Weisberger, Gabi Weisberger*



*Michael, Vilmosh, & Reli wish friends*

### **Survivors reuniting**

Several months after Margit Wohl had been liberated and reunited with Herman, she was released from the Swedish Red Cross hospital. Herman knew they had nothing to go back to in their home town. Maly Berezny was part of the Transcarpathia region that was annexed to Soviet Ukraine after the war as part of a treaty between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. They did not want to live under communist control and be part of the Soviet Union. Instead they reunited with Margit's brothers, Tibor and Vilmosh, in Humenné.

Margit and Herman lived in an apartment in the back of the building that the rest of the family lived, off an alley where the children played soccer. Herman, having owned a General Store in his home town, worked with his brother-in-law, Tibor at Tibor's General Store.



Around October 1945, Tibor, Vilmosh and Margit were eventually reunited with Bercho, their only surviving brother originally taken to the Detention Center in Poprad. After finding out his older brothers were still alive, Bercho came to Humenné.

Bercho lived with Vilmosh and shared a room with his younger nephew Michael. This was something that Michael requested and a gesture that created a great bond between uncle and nephew that lasted the rest of their lives. With such a large age gap between Bercho and his surviving brothers, this also gave Bercho that chance to have that older brother feeling that he needed to start mentally healing.

Bercho tried to get acclimated to a normal life again. Since he went to school in Humenné, he was used to the town. He too worked at Tibor's General Store, like he did at the family's General Store before the war. He even joined a Zionist Youth Group called Hashomer Hatzair that met at the local Jewish Community Center.



*Bercho with Hashomer Hatzair Youth Group & Michael*

### **Bercho Leaves for Mexico**

Bercho had a tremendous amount of "Survivor's Guilt" that constantly made him very angry and depressed. He traveled back to his old village of Hrabovec and saw how the locals took over his old home. Then he got angry at the people he knew there, knowing that they never did anything to help his family. He was constantly getting into fights with people in these moments of rage and the rest of the family was getting concerned about what might happen. They were further concerned when they found out that since Bercho was still within draft age, the government may call on him for military duty.

After much discussion amongst the siblings, they decided it was in Bercho's best interest to get away from Slovakia, and Europe, and head to America. The original plan was for Bercho to join Albert in Philadelphia. Though they had never met, Albert wanted to do what he could to help the family.



*Hermina & Bercho*

After Vilmosh took Bercho to Prague to apply for his VISA, his application was ultimately denied due to the United States' strict immigration policy. The United States had not increased its quota for the admittance of Displaced Persons from Europe from its war time levels. A policy Bercho never understood and always angered him.



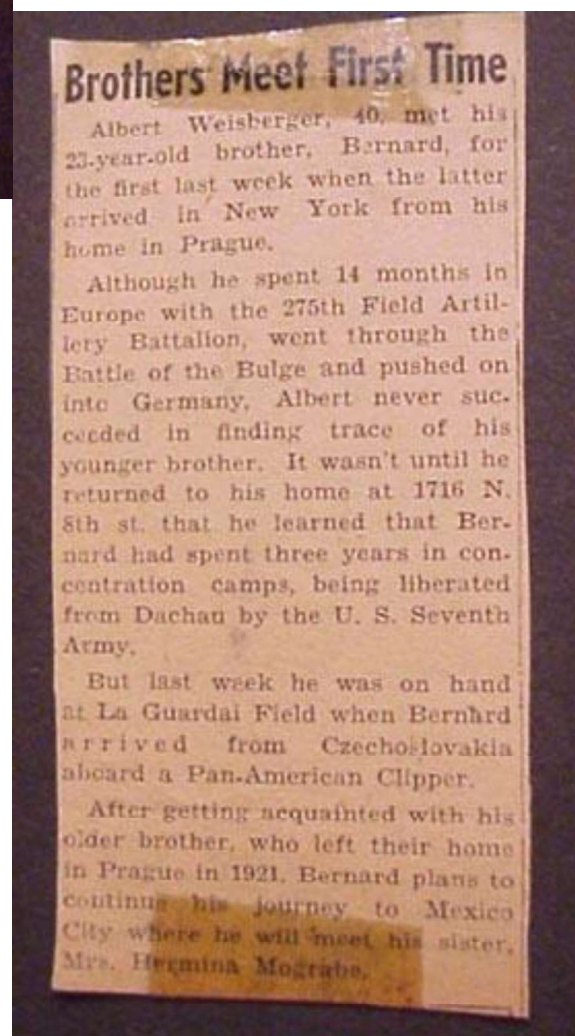
Their sister Hermina, who was still living in Mexico, offered to sponsor Bercho to come stay with her in Mexico. Since Mexico had a much more liberal immigration policy, this is where Bercho would eventually end up.

So, in 1947 Tibi and Vilmosh bought Bercho a plane ticket that would take him to Mexico City. However, along the

way to Mexico his Pan-American flight would stop in New York. This gave Bercho his first opportunity to meet and spend some brief time with his older brother, Albert. The New York newspaper found out about this reunion and published an article and picture of the reunion in



*Bercho & Magda*



the daily newspaper. After a brief visit, Bercho continued on to reunite with his sister Hermina in Mexico.

Bercho started working in the garment business. He was eventually introduced to his love, Magda. After dating her for a short time they got married and started a large family.

### **Bernie Benovic's path to Israel**

After liberation, Bernhard registered with the Czech Red Cross and was sent to Prague to start his recovery. He stayed in a sanitarium for about six months until he was finally well enough to leave. He went back to his hometown to find his family home in ruins. The Russians had their horses living in his home like they were stables. He felt that he really had no future there and returned to Prague. However, before Bernie left, he went back to that spot in the basement of his family's house and was able to find all the family gold and jewelry still buried in the same spot his father Emanuel left it. This gave Bernie the means to start over.



*Bernard Benovic*

In Prague, Bernie reconnected with a man he met while they were both recovering at the sanitarium. This man helped him find a place to live and found him a job. After one year in Prague he was drafted into the Czech army where he served two years. Since he had a background in tailoring, he was assigned to make and tailor uniforms.

In 1948 after Israel was declared an independent state, Bernie was drawn there. Like many survivors who just went through the hell of the Holocaust, he felt that Israel is where he needed to be. As soon as he got there he volunteered for the Haganah, Israeli Army, and served for 2 years.

### **Leaving Slovakia for Israel**

In February 1948, the Communist Party had taken control of Czechoslovakia and aligned with the USSR. The state was taking over businesses and ownership of property, essentially telling people they now worked for the state. Coming out of what the family just experienced with the Nazi Party during the Holocaust, they made the decision that it was now time to leave Slovakia.

In order for the family to leave Czechoslovakia the government forced the family to relinquish all claims to property they owned in the country. As the Communist Government was already

taking over businesses and property, this seemed like something that would happen regardless, so they agreed.

There were many Zionist groups promoting immigration to the newly formed State of Israel. This drew great interest from Displaced Survivors, as well as members of the family.

### ***Leo & Emil Weiss's go to Israel***

Like many of the Jewish youth in the days after the war was over, Leo and Emil Weiss were very active in the Zionist youth group, Aliyat Hanoar. After the family decided they wanted to leave Slovakia in 1949, Leo and Emil convinced their parents to let them go to Israel. Being only 16 and 15 years old, Ester was somewhat reluctant but ultimately allowed them to go. Leo and Emil moved to a Kibbutz established by Aliyat Hanoar. They worked on the Kibbutz and went to school for about a year and a half. It was a hard life in Israel at the time. Emil eventually left to join the family in the United States. Leo chose to stay and by this time he was old enough to join the Israeli Defense Force where he served for about two years, even seeing battle along the Jordanian border.



*Bernard Benovic, Margit & Herman Wohl, Leo Weiss*



*Margit & Herman Wohl*

### ***Herman & Margit Wohl to Israel***

Margit and Herman Wohl also decided they wanted to live in Israel and left in the start of



*Herman & Margit Wohl, Leo Weiss, Bernard Benovic*

1949. They lived on a kibbutz where they worked very hard to cultivate the land and develop the settlement. However, there were not a lot of places to live and the life was very hard. The jobs only consisted of those on the kibbutz. They had sent word back to the family in Slovakia to let them know the conditions so the rest of the family could make an informed decision.

### **Leaving Slovakia for North America**

The rest of the family made the decision to head to North America. The United States was slowly easing its rather strict immigration policy established after they entered World War II that limiting the number of immigrants allowed in from Europe for fear some may be working as agents for Germany. Following intense pressure from the American Jewish community, the United States congress passed the Displaced Persons Act significantly increasing the number of Jewish immigrants admitted into the United States for permanent residence. These displaced persons were primarily Jewish survivors who were unwilling or unable to go back to their prewar homes due to their home's destruction and had no family to return to, or just the fear of further anti-Semitism in their home town. These people were living in Displaced Persons Camps established in Allied occupied territories by the Allied governments.

Theodore (Teddy) Weiss had already established himself and was living in Detroit, Michigan. This is where Jonas and Ester Weiss wanted to go and where everyone else followed. The problem was initially Teddy was only able to sponsor his parents and not his siblings. The rest of the siblings needed to apply on their own.

### ***Eugene and Fred Weiss to the United States***

In 1949, Vilmosh took Eugene and Fred to Prague to get on list to immigrate to the US. The process was very slow and they were told it would take a long time to get approval. Eugene and Fred did not want to stay waiting in Slovakia as the Communist regime was moving in. They tried to get passports to go to Austria so they could go to a Displaced Persons Camp and leave from there. However, because they were already on the immigration list in Prague they could not get a passport.

According to both Eugene and Fred, they came up with a plan. Eugene took the birth certificate of his older brother Moshe, whom the family assumed had been killed in Auschwitz, and got a passport using his papers that got him to Austria. Since there was only a three-year age difference between Eugene and Moshe he could pass easier than even younger Fred. Fred was to stay closer to the Austria border in Bratislava and wait for word from Eugene.



Once Eugene was across the border in Austria, he started talking with different people and found a man who smuggled people across the border. Eugene paid this man \$700 with money that he smuggled in his shoe, to go across the border and smuggle Fred back into Austria. This man went back to Bratislava and found Fred. Then in the cover of night, Fred was hidden in the back of this man's truck and covered with piles of hay. Fred got very worried as they approached the border and made the decision that if he felt anything was going wrong that he would just make a run for it. Fortunately, though the man was asked a lot of questions and truck was looked at closely, Fred was never found under all the hay. Once safely in Austria, Fred was reunited with Eugene.

They made their way to Vienna for a few months then eventually went to a DP camp in Salzburg Germany run by the US military, where they stayed for about 8 months. Neither had any bad memories of the DP Camp. Fred recalls working as a driver for some of the military higher command and being allowed to drive the Jeeps around the camp. They were eventually able to get papers that brought them to the United States. Eugene and Fred then made their way to Paris where they would enjoy themselves for a few months until they left for America.

By the end of September 1950, they were able to secure passage on the S.S. DeGrasse and left France. They arrived on Ellis Island in New York of October 2, 1950. Their brother Teddy met them in New York and brought them to Detroit.

#### Paris Emigration Cards issued by the American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC)

INDEX CARD		A. J. D. C.		EMIGRATION SERVICE		PARIS	
Last Name	WIESS	File No	US 5692				
First Name	Ferdinand	Sex	M	Opening Date	Sept 5 1950		
Address	Paris	In transit from	Salzburg U.S.A.				
Birthdate	1909	Birthplace	CZE	Accompanied by	1900		
Nationality:							
Present	Czech orig	Former					
Occupation:							
Present		Former					
Country of destination	USA	Closing Date					

*Fred*

INDEX CARD		A. J. D. C.		EMIGRATION SERVICE		PARIS	
Last Name	WIESS	File No	US 5692				
First Name	Eugen	Sex	M	Opening Date	Sept 5 1950		
Address	Bel. Rueben 10, Avenue Belle Vain	In transit from	Salzburg U.S.A.				
Birthdate	20/7	Birthplace	CZE	Accompanied by	1900		
Nationality:							
Present	Czech orig	Former					
Occupation:							
Present		Former					
Country of destination	USA	Closing Date					

*Eugene*



**SS De Grasse Ship's Manifest for Ellis Island for Eugene & Fred (Ferdinand) Weiss**

Form 1415  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
United States Customs Service  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
(Rev. 7-1-54)

Manifest No. **61**  
**31**

Class **CABIN** from **LE HAVRE FRANCE** arriving at port of **NEW YORK NY OCT 2nd** 19**59**

ON **French S/S "DE GRASSE"** arriving at port of **NEW YORK NY OCT 2nd** 19**59**

Line No.	Foreign Name—Other Name (Last, first or United States)	Age (Years)	Sex (M or F)	Mar- ried (M or S)	Travel Doc. No. (Country)	Number and Description of Papers or Receipts	Adm- in- is- sued	Time Column and Use of Money, Passports, and U. S. Dollars
1	ADAIN Jeanine 26 F	26	F	M	RF164-0672		YES	
2	1872 Dancy Str JACKSONVILLE Fla.				SWITZERLAND			
3	ASHTON Laure 26 F	26	F	M	RF1605948		YES	
4	2588 Herschel St JACKSONVILLE Fla.				FRANCE			
5	BAUER Konrad 25 M	25	M	M	1-544910		YES	
6	1249 Beach AV NYC NY				STATELESS			
7	GOTTESMANN Susan 40 M	40	M	M	164-2176		YES	
8	2410 King's Highway BLYDEN NY				CZECHOSLOV			
9	GOTTESMANN Theodore 11 M	11	M	S	164-2179		NO	EXEMPT
10	GOTTESMANN Eteleka 40 F	40	F	M	164-2177		YES	
11	GOTTESMANN Alice 14 F	14	F	S	164-2178		NO	EXEMPT
12	GUTHRIE Paul 17 M	17	M	S	1735590		YES	
13	5719 Florence AV PHILADELPHIA Pa				FRANCE			
14	HAFNER Miria 55 F	55	F	S	11317842		YES	
15	81 Metropolitan Oval BROOK NY				POLAND			
16	HAFNER Albert 15 M	15	M	S	1-1317843		NO	EXEMPT
17	SHALAF Jamir 25 M	25	M	S	1-738590		YES	
18	San Francisco State College PRISCO Cal.				IRAK			
19	KROFF Marie 43 F	43	F	M	RF1628050		YES	
20	688 Melrose AV BROOK NY				FRANCE			
21	MURKILL Michael 32 M	32	M	S	1-943144		YES	
22	58 W 24th NYC NY				STATELESS			
23	KUSCHER Robert 24 M	24	M	S	1-1251218		YES	
24	Oklahoma Agric & Mech College STILLWATER OKLA.				SWITZERLAND			
25	LI Hsiao Jun 26 M	26	M	S	1-738706		YES	
26	St Louis Univ, ST LOUIS Mo. (Christianity)				CHINA			
27	NGUYEN GIA HIEM Pav Joseph 25 M	25	M	S	1-748907		YES	
28	Caprol College KHEIEN Mont.				VICTIM			
29	WITTELMAN Isidor 26 M	26	M	S	1-1370209		YES	
30	901 McKinley FROENIT Ariz				STATELESS			
31	ROSENTHAL Hans 40 M	40	M	S	1-252002		YES	
32	680 Ft Washington AV NYC NY				AUSTRIA			
33	TEICHBERG Susan 46 M	46	M	M	1-735509		YES	
34	229 W 180 St NYC NY				STATELESS			
35	TEICHBERG Annelie 39 F	39	F	M	1-735510		YES	
36	TEICHBERG Renee 3 M	3	M	S	1-735511		NO	EXEMPT
37	WEISS Ferdinand 21 M	21	M	S	1-784836		YES	
38	3796 Montferrey DETROIT 6 Mich				STATELESS			
39	WEISS Eugene 23 M	23	M	S	1-784837		YES	
40	WEISS Eugene 32 M	32	M	S	1-1201896		YES	
41	270 Mitchell GAITHERBURG MO.				STATELESS			

Handwritten notes and signatures are present throughout the form, including "T. 168674", "T. 168671", "T. 168672", and "T. 168673".

## ***Herman and Gizzy Weiss to the United States***

Herman and Gizzy Weiss chose a slightly different path. In November 1948, they had given birth to Erwin. Now with the two children, instead of taking their chance with applying for immigration to the US through Prague, they left for Allied occupied Germany. They found their way to a DP Camp where they lived for around a year.

By the end of 1950 they obtained approval to come to the United States. On November 30, 1950, they left the ports of Bremerhaven, German on the U.S.S. General J.H. McRae and arrived in Ellis Island in New York on December 11, 1950. They made their way to Detroit where they were also reunited with the rest of the Weiss family.



**USS General J.H.  
McRae & Ship Manifest**



**Gizzy, Morry, Erwin, & Herman Weiss**

Form 1-415 TREASURY DEPARTMENT United States Customs Service UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Immigration and Naturalization Service (Rev. 1-3-50)		Form approved Budget Bureau No. 41-1074-2		MANIFEST NO. 41				
Class DP				from Bremerhaven 30th Nov. 1950				
on USS "GENERAL J.H. McRAE"				arriving at port of New York, NY. DEC 11 1950				
LINE No.	FAMILY NAME-GIVEN NAME DESTINATION IN UNITED STATES	AGE (Year)	SEX M-F	MAR- RIED OR SINGLE	TRAVEL DOC. NO. NATIONALITY	NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PIECES OF BAGGAGE	HEAD TAX COL- LECTED	THIS COLUMN FOR USE OF MASTER, SURGEON, AND U. S. OFFICERS
1	WEISS Harry 7326 Jordan Rd. Rt. 1, Yale, Mich.	41	M	M	I-288547 Czechoslovakian		No	USNA 236 EXEMPT
2	WEISS Serena 7326 Jordan Rd. Rt. 1, Yale, Mich.	37	F	M	I-288546 Czechoslovakian		No	
3	WEISS Yuri 7326 Jordan Rd. Rt. 1, Yale, Mich.	10	M	S	I-288544 Czechoslovakian		No	
4	WEISS Izak 7326 Jordan Rd. Rt. 1, Yale, NY.	2	M	S	I-288545 Czechoslovakian		No	

## ***The Weisberger's to Windsor, Ontario Canada***

Vilmosh and Tibor Weisberger decided they did not want to go the route of staying in the Displaced Persons camps to wait for admittance to the United States. Instead they would go to Canada. Theodore Weiss was able to find a farmer in Windsor, Ontario that, for a fee, would serve as a sponsor and got the papers necessary for them to be able to immigrate to Canada. It cost each family around \$1,000 for this, of which they obtained the US Dollars on the black

market to pay this fee. In April 1949, they received their official notification from Canadian Immigration and were able to start making arrangements.

Their journey would initially take them to London, England where their brother Herman was living so they could spend a little time together. From there it was much easier to gain passage on a ship to Canada. Once in Canada they would make their way to Windsor, Ontario which was on the border and right across the river from Detroit, Michigan where the rest of the Weiss family was gathering. Therefore, the family could still stay close even if they could not be in the same country.

Before Jonas and Ester Weiss could start leaving Slovakia they needed to solve the problem of how to get Reli out of the country. The U.S. Immigration law only allowed Theodore to bring over his parents, Jonas & Ester, but they could not bring their granddaughter Reli. Since Miriam's passing, her daughter Reli had been living with her grandparents. Legally she was an orphan and nobody had assumed legal custody of her. An initial idea was for Reli to go to Israel with her uncles Leo and Emil along with the Zionist group Aliyat Hanoar. However, Ester felt she was too young and would not allow it. Vilmosh and Rozie Weisberger decided they would take Reli with them as their daughter when they immigrated out of Slovakia. However, they needed to get Reli new papers. They forged Reli's birth records to show that she was born a year later than she truly was born so it fell after the Vilmosh and Rozie's wedding date, and also showed Reli as their daughter.

In the start of November 1949 Vilmosh and Rozie, along with Tibor and Matilda left Humenné with their families, for their brother, Hermann's place in London England. They took a train through Austria to Belgium and then a boat to London. They stayed with Vilmosh's brother Herman, who lived in London, for about a week until the passenger ship that took them to Halifax, Nova Scotia in Canada was ready.

On November 15, 1949, Vilmosh, Rozie, Michael, and Reli they left from Southampton, England on the RMS Aquitania and arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia on November 21, 1949. The trip took about a week. When they got to Halifax, they did not speak the language, but they were able to find the train that took them for a two-day ride down to Windsor, Ontario.


About a week after Vilmosh and Rozie left England, Tibor, Matilda, Lea and Gabi left from the docks in Liverpool on the RMS Empress of Canada for Halifax, Nova Scotia as well. Finally arriving on November 29, 1949 where they also took the train down to Windsor, Ontario to join Vilmosh and Rozie.



**Letter of Admission for Immigration to Canada**

ADDRESS  
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO  
No. **C.32946**  
IMMIGRATION  
BRANCH

  
CANADA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
MINES AND RESOURCES

OTTAWA, April 11, 1949.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your application for the admission to  
Canada of Viliam Weisberger, his wife, Regina Weisberger, and their  
children, Milan and Rella Weisberger,

presently residing at

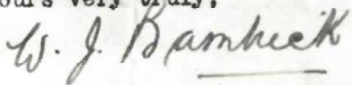
Hummene, Czechoslovakia,

this is to advise that the settlement arrangements for the reception  
of the above-named are considered satisfactory and it will be in order  
for them to make application in person to the Canadian Visa Officer at  
The Canadian Legation,  
Krakovska 22,  
Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Provided the proposed immigrants are of good character,  
in possession of valid passports,  
can pass medical examination and otherwise comply with our requirements,  
visa for Canada will be granted.

This letter should be sent to the above-named for presentation  
to the Canadian Visa Officer indicated for the purpose of identification.

The necessary advice is going forward to the Visa Officer  
overseas by surface mail which takes from three to four weeks to arrive  
and the proposed immigrant should therefore refrain from getting in  
touch with said Officer until sufficient time has elapsed for our advice  
to reach him.

Yours very truly,  
  
W. J. Bambrick,  
Acting District Superintendent.

Andrew Kassa, Esq.,  
Con. 10, Gosfield N.,  
Cotton, Ontario.

10.



# A.J.D.C. Emigration VISA Travel Authorization

A. J. D. C. EMIGRATION SERVICE - LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION					
From : Orig. AJDC Em. Office	PRAGUE	File N°	P 1805 B	Opening Date	10.5.1948.
To : End destination	WINDSOR	File N°		Arrived	Left
Via : AJDC Em. Office	LONDON	File N°		Arrived	Left
		File N°		Arrived	Left
IDENTIFYING INFORMATION FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY GROUP					
SURNAME . . .	WEISBERGER	WEISBERGER	WEISBERGER	WEISBERGER	
First Name . . .	William	Regina	Rela	Milan	
Maiden Name . . .		Weiss			
Father's Name . . .					
Mother's Name . . .					
Relation to Head . . .		wife	daughter	son	
Birthplace . . .	Bratislava	Ruska Kajna	Humenec	Radvan	
Birthdate . . .	19.3.1908	24.3.1919	24.2.1939	18.4.1941	
Nationality Present . . .	Czech	Czech	Czech	Czech	
Former . . .					
Occupation . . .	merchant				
DOCUMENTATION					
PASSPORT number . . .	3357/3826/49				
Type . . .	Czechoslovakian				
Date Issued . . .	8.8.1949				
Place Issued . . .	Bratislava				
Valid till . . .	31.7.1951				
TRANSIT VISA for . . .	Belgium				
Date Issued . . .	19.10.1949				
Place Issued . . .	Prague				
Valid till . . .					
TRANSIT VISA for . . .	Mil. Permit No. 47596-8				
Date Issued . . .					
Place Issued . . .	Prague				
Valid till . . .					
END VISA for . . .	Canada No. PA 133				
Date Issued . . .	7.9.1949				
Place Issued . . .	Prague				
Valid till . . .					
Other visas . . .					
IRO ELIGIBILITY		DEPOSIT INFORMATION			
Registration N° . . .		Cash :	Local currency 37,901.20 (Equiv. in US \$ 758)		
Certified by . . .		Guarantee :			
RECOMMENDED SERVICES TO BE RENDERED	Transportation to End Destination Windsor		Conditions		
Maintenance en route	transit maintenance		Name and Address of depositor		
Baggage	300 kg		Committee holding deposit:		
Remarks :			Signed by emigrant:		
EXPECTED RESIDENCE OVERSEAS	Andrew Kasan		Promissory Note - Place Date		
	Es Q. 10, Goatfield N		Call Forward Letter- Place Date		
	Cott on Ontario.				
TRANSPORTATION					
From	To	By (Date)	How arranged		
Czech border	Southampton	train	AJDC Prague paid, see remarks		
		via London			
Southampton	Halifax	9.11.1949	dtto.		
		SSA Titania			
		15.11.1949	dtto.		
Halifax	Windsor	train			
This letter authorizes AJDC Emigration Offices and Cooperating Committees listed above to provide necessary assistance to the indicated point of destination in accordance with policies and procedures of AJDC Emigration Service.					
Date :	Prague 7th November, 1948.		AJDC Chief Emigration Officer		
Seal :					
ORM N° 55					

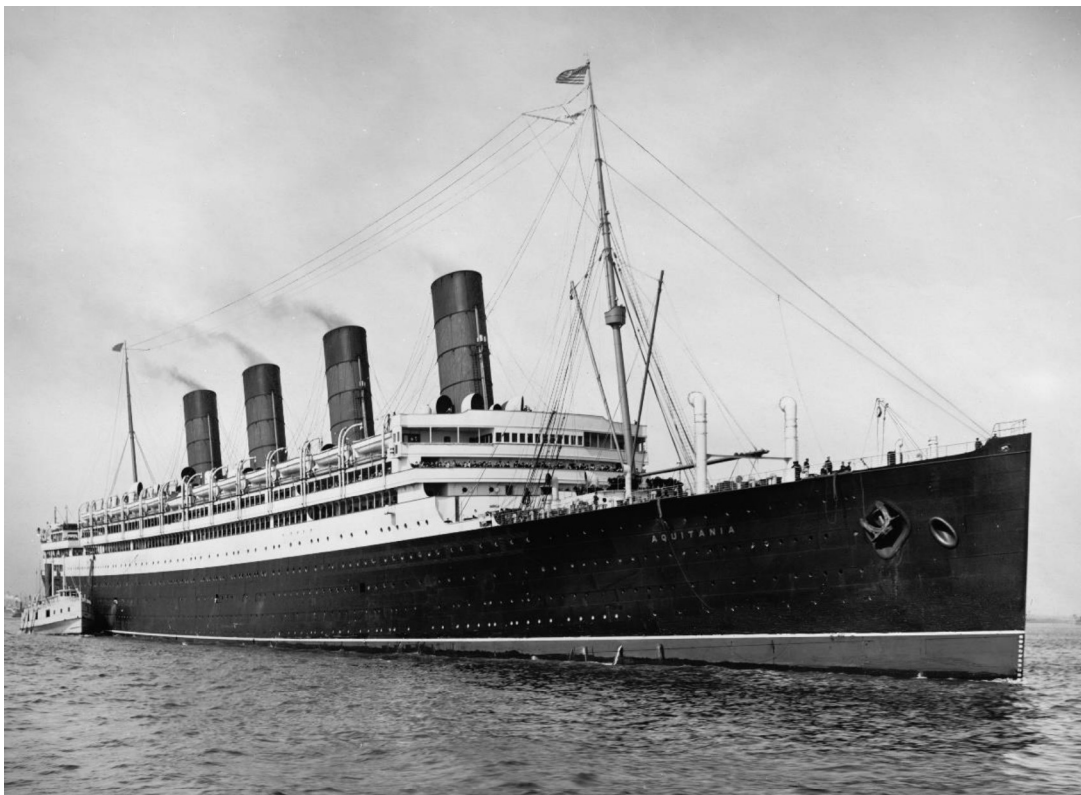
## Boarding ticket for the SS Aquitania

Podnikatel dopravy: **CUNARD WHITE STAR**  
PRAHA II, HYBERNSKÁ 26

Čís. rejstř. výše: ..... **Dopravní smlouva čis. 957** .....  
Mezi výše uvedeným podnikatelem dopravy a vystřihovatelem níže jmenovanými ujednává se tato dopravní smlouva:

Podnikatel dopravu vystřihovatele ze strany sídla uvedená z ..... vískem ve ..... dle dne ..... 19... do ..... SOUTHAMPTONU  
CHEROUBOU LIVERPOOLU, pak přímo po moři lodí ..... z .....  
dne ..... 19... z ..... do N. YORU | HALIFAXU | MONTREAL, odtud vlakem ..... odjíždí do .....  
vstoupí ..... v ..... dle do ..... ve ..... Lodí zastavuje v ..... SOUTHAMPTONU  
CHEROUBOU LIVERPOOLU ..... dle .....  
Příjemci .....  
Jméno .....  
Věk .....  
Pohlaví .....  
Scara .....  
Povolání .....  
Státní příslušnost .....  
Podleštní bydliště .....  
Cena .....  
Doprava .....  
Druh .....  
Počet .....  
Poznamky .....  
Úhrnem \$ .....  
Dopravní celková: \$ .....  
Tato částka byla vystřihovatelem zaplácena dne .....  
Podnikatel přijímá zodpovědnost za vystřihovatele od vstoupení na loď v přístavišti nábřeží až do jeho vystoupení v konečném přístavišti vylodění.  
Dopravu zaručuje jako přejíždě ..... SOUTHAMPTONU | CHEROUBOU | LIVERPOOLU ..... do N. YORU | HALIFAXU | MONTREAL .....  
vstoupí ..... z .....  
do kanceláře podnikatelovy .....  
Začíná-li státní vstoupí odjíždí lodí, požaduje polovinu přepravného. Loď odjíždí z .....  
dne .....  
V Praze dne ..... 194...  
Podnikatel: .....  
Vystřihovatel: .....

**CUNARD WHITE STAR**  
PRAHA II, HYBERNSKÁ 26



## **Chapter 12 - Starting a New Life in North America**

Upon arriving in Windsor, Rozie's older brother Theodore met the family to help them get settled and the kids were enrolled at the Prince Edwards School where they learned English. They were also sent to a Hebrew/Yiddish school at Shaar Hashomayim synagogue in which the family belonged.

Vilmosh worked in a factory on the midnight shift. Rozie also worked in the factory as well as cleaning houses. Tibi worked as a night watchman at Hiram Walker brewery. About a year or so after Vilmosh & Rozie were settled in Windsor, Margit & Herman Wohl joined them from Israel. Shortly after Margit & Herman came, Bernie Benovic followed.

Bernie Benovic started working at clothing stores. After a couple years he met his wife Laura at a dance in Detroit. Shortly thereafter they married and Bernie moved to Detroit where he eventually opened a successful clothing store that he ran until he retired. When Jonas and Ester Weiss arrived in Detroit, Jonas did some work at the synagogue. One of the people from synagogue owned Greenfield Noodles and offered Jonas a job.

After Leo Weiss finished his service in the Israeli Army, he was alone and missed his family. So Leo joined his family back in Detroit. Shortly after arriving he found work as a plumber. However, while serving in Israel he met a girl named Emma, whose family immigrated to Israel from Russia. They wrote letters back and forth to each other until Leo went back to Israel and married Emma in 1959. They came back to the United States where they started a family and Leo started his plumbing business.

When Eugene came to America, he started working in the Hudson automotive factory at night, then eventually worked as an auto mechanic. While hanging out at the Jewish Community Center in Detroit he met Ellen. After a short courtship, they got married. Eventually Eugene opened a Deli and they started their family.

About a year after arriving in the United States, Fred Weiss received his citizenship which led to his being drafted into the United States Army. When he was discharged, Fred came back to Detroit where he met Gloria whose family was from the Chicago area. They eventually got married and moved to Chicago where Fred started a metal scraping business and a family with Gloria.

By 1955, Vilmosh & Rozie Weisberger and Tibor & Matilda Weisberger with their families, along with Herman & Margit Wohl were finally able to immigrate to Detroit from Windsor with the rest of the family. By 1960 they would officially be United States citizens.

Vilmosh and Rozie eventually opened the Avalon Restaurant in the deli district of Detroit.



Tibor Weisberger owned the Triangle Grill with Eugene Weiss in Allen Park, Michigan. He sold his 50% share to Margit & Herman Wohl in 1964 when Tibor and Matilda moved to Los Angeles, California with their kids.

Though starting over in new countries was difficult, both the Weisberger and Weiss families were able to start over and create a new family legacy away from their homeland of Slovakia.



Of the 12 family members that made up Filip and Miriam's Weisberger family, seven survived. Of the seven family members that made up Filip's sister Regina and Emanuel Benovic's family, only one survived. Of the 13 family members that made up Jonas and Ester's Weiss family, nine survived. Including spouses and children, the Weisberger and Weiss families lost 19 family members to the Holocaust. This family history is to be assured that Hitler's wish to eradicate the Jews from history will never be accomplished because now their names, pictures and stories are remembered and shared with the future generations created by the 17 Weisberger and Weiss family members who survived.

### **Weiss Family lost to the Holocaust**

Miriam – December 28, 1911 - January 1945 (age 34)  
Shoni Keisler – October 25, 1899 – March 3, 1945 (age 45)



(L-R)

Josef – May 6, 1913 – August 8, 1942 (age 29)

Lenka – February 12, 1922 – unknown, but assumed 1942 (age 20)

Moritz – March 8, 1924 – August 20, 1942 (age 18)

### **Weisberger Family lost to the Holocaust**



Filip – April 26, 1877 – unknown, but assumed 1942 (age 65)

Miriam – June 5, 1885 – unknown, but assumed 1942 (age 57)



Samuel – March 25, 1914 - November 3, 1942 (age 28)

Ethel - January 3, 1919 – unknown, but assumed 1942 (age 23)



Judit – May 1, 1928 – unknown, but assumed 1942 (age 14)





To those who survived...

**Weisberger Survivors**

Tibi, Herman, Vilmosh, Bercho  
Margit, Hermina  
Albert

Herman, Magda, Rosie, Bercho  
Vilmosh, Matilda, Tibi, Margit, Hermina

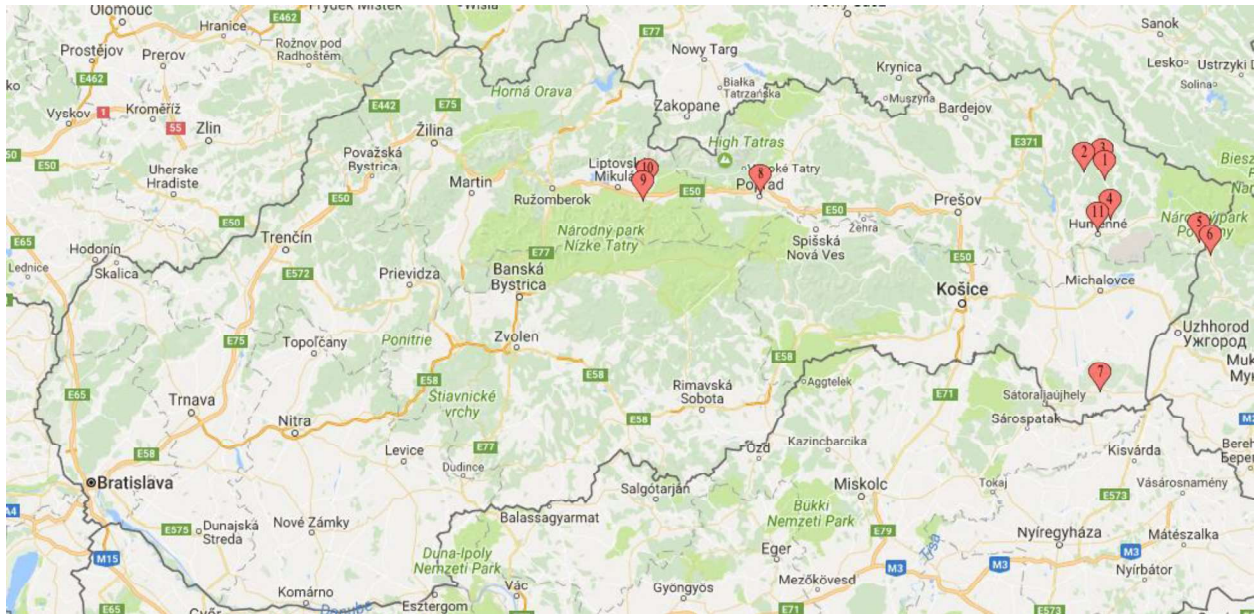


**Weiss Survivors**

Leo, Eugene, Teddy, Fred, Emil  
Harry, Gizzy, Ester, Jonas, Rosie, Vilmosh  
Morry, Reli, Michael

## Appendix I

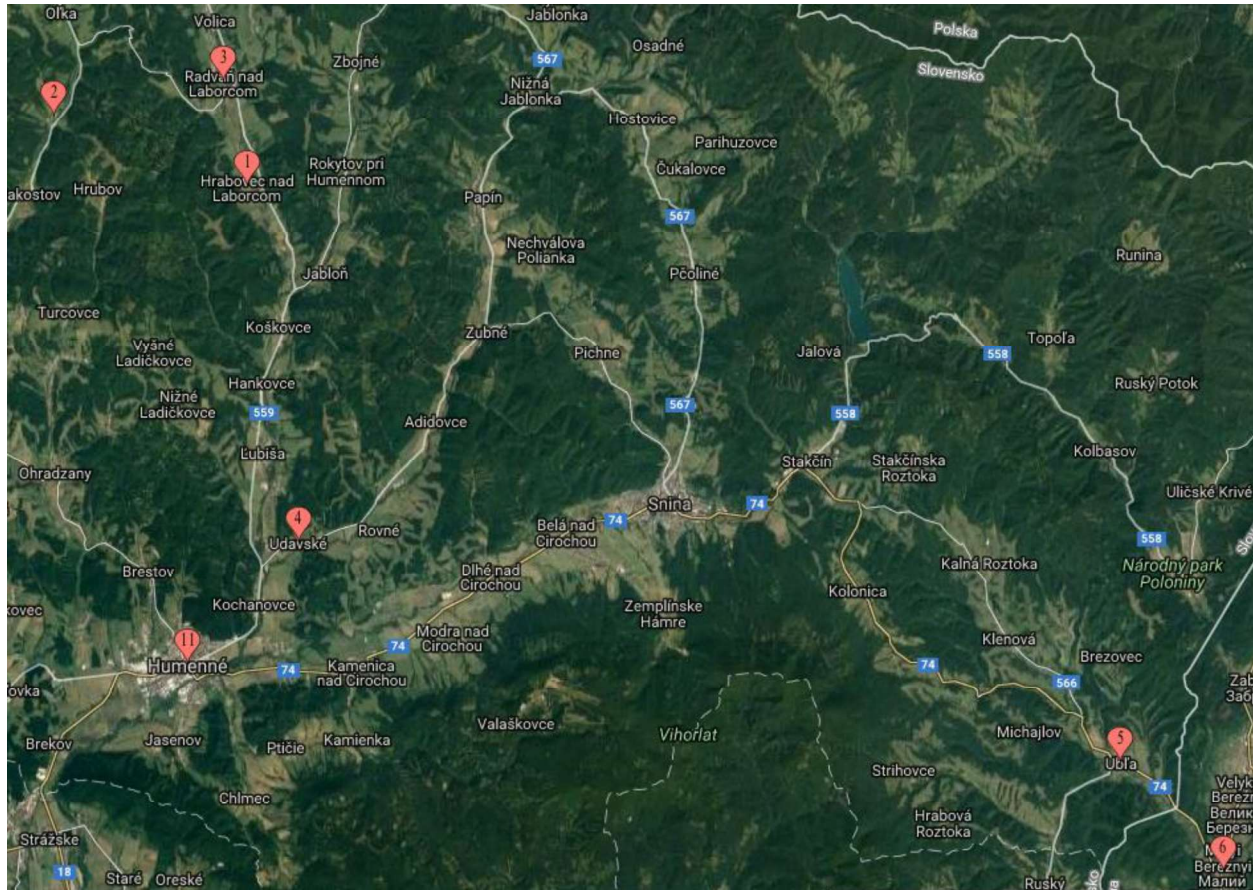
### Map of Slovakia



1. **Hrabovec** (today: Hrabovec nad Laborcom) – Weisberger/Herz village
2. **Ruská Kajňa** – Weiss village
3. **Vyšná Radvaň** (today: Radvaň nad Laborcom) – Weisberger/Weiss village
4. **Udavské** – Tobias village
5. **Ubľa** (today: Ubľa) – Weisberger/Benovic village
6. **Maly Berezny** (today: Malyi Bereznyi, Ukraine) – Wohl Village
7. **Bodrogszentes** (today: Svätušé) – Keisler Village
8. **Poprad** – Detention Center
9. **Liptovská Porúbka & Liptovský Hrádok** – Brtkovica mountain villages family hid
10. **Vavrišovo** – Village family hid
11. **Humenné** – Town family settled post-war

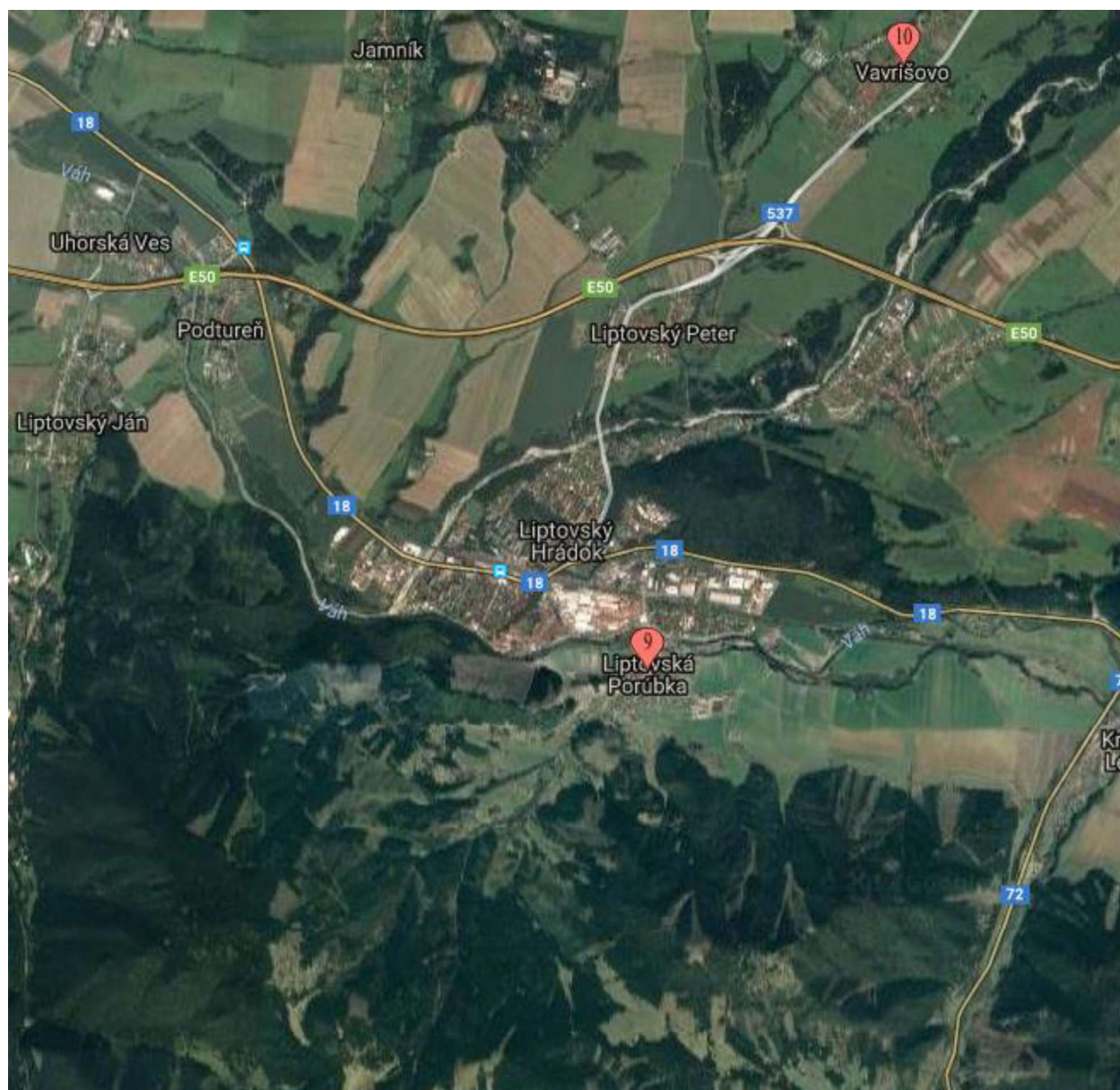


## Area where family lived



1. **Hrabovec** (today: Hrabovec nad Laborcom) – Weisberger/Herz village
2. **Ruská Kajňa** – Weiss village
3. **Vyšná Radvaň** (today: Radvaň nad Laborcom) – Weisberger/Weiss village
4. **Udavské** – Tobias village
5. **Ubľa** (today: Ubľa) – Weisberger/Benovic village
6. **Maly Berezny** (today: Malyi Bereznyi, Ukraine) – Wohl Village
11. **Humenné** – Town family settled post-war

**Villages family hid at the foot of the Brtkovica mountain range in the Low Tatras Mountains**



9. **Liptovská Porúbka & Liptovský Hrádok** – Brtkovica mountain villages family hid

10. **Vavrišovo** – Village family hid



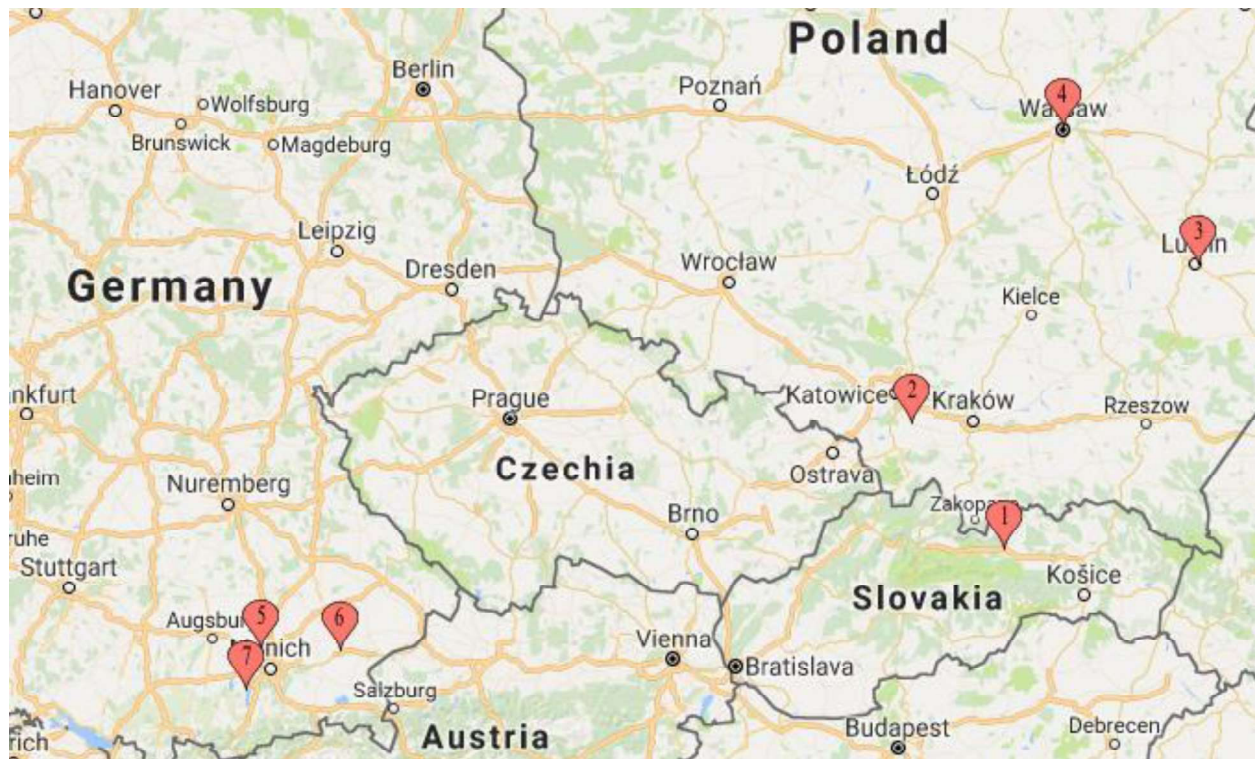
## Herman Weisberger's flight from Czechoslovakia



1. Prague, Czech
2. Hrabovec, Slovakia
- Small village of Humuliuk, Poland (Village no longer exists, so not found in current maps.)
3. Katowice, Poland
4. Gdynia, Poland
5. Gothenburg, Sweden
6. Tilbury Docks, England
7. London, England



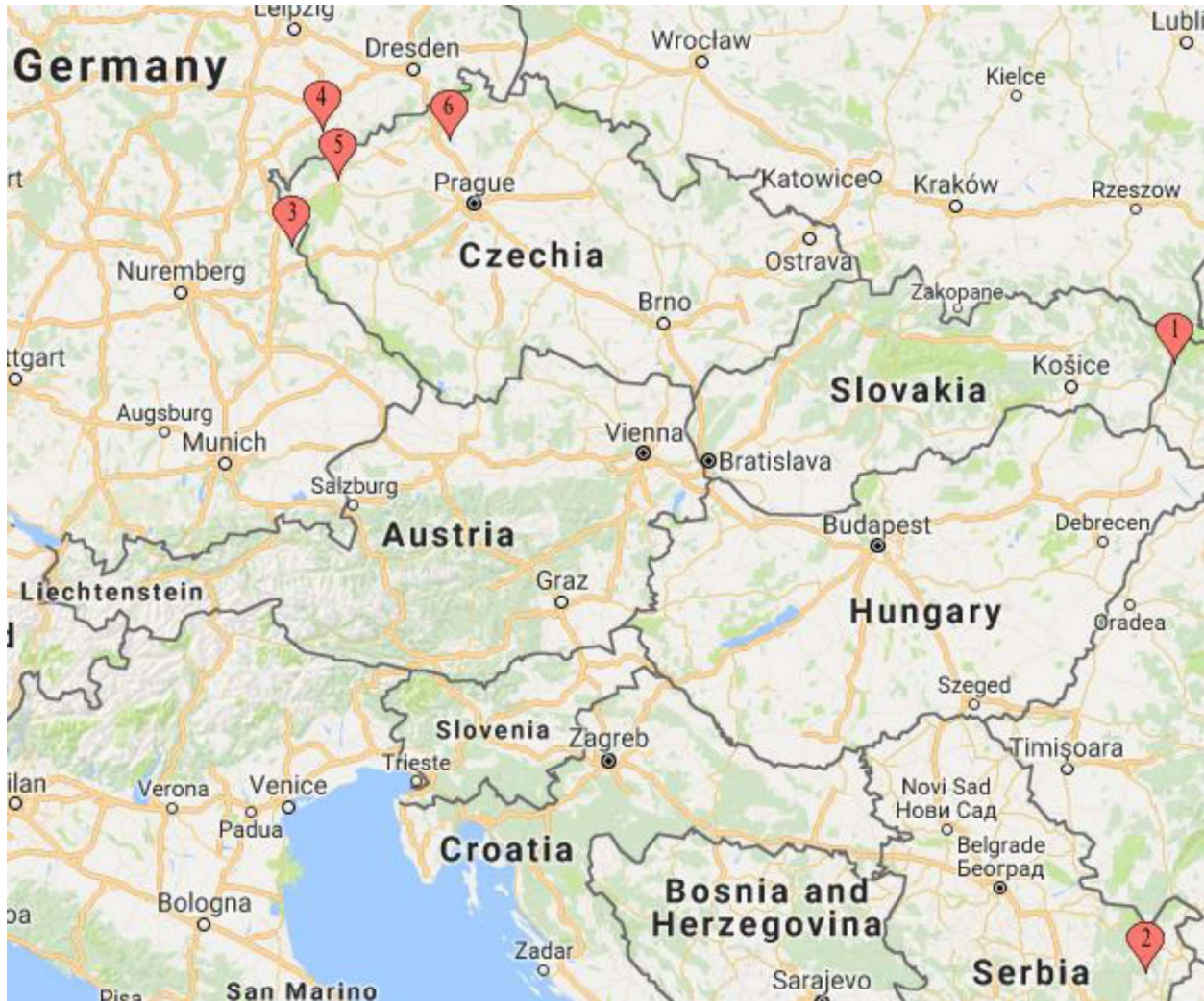
## **Bercho Weissberger & Weisberger/Weiss Family Path Through the Camps**



1. Poprad Detention Center
2. Auschwitz - Birkenau Concentration Camp
  - \* Filip, Miriam, Ethel, and Judit Weisberger, along with Joseph, Lenka, and Moritz Weiss died.
3. Majdanek Concentration Camp
2. Auschwitz Labor Camp
  - \* Samuel Weisberger died
4. Warsaw Ghetto
5. Dachau Concentration Camp
6. Muhlendorf - Ampfing (Sub-camp: Dachau)
7. Feldafing, Germany (Bercho Liberated)

## Herman & Margit Wohl Path Through the Camps

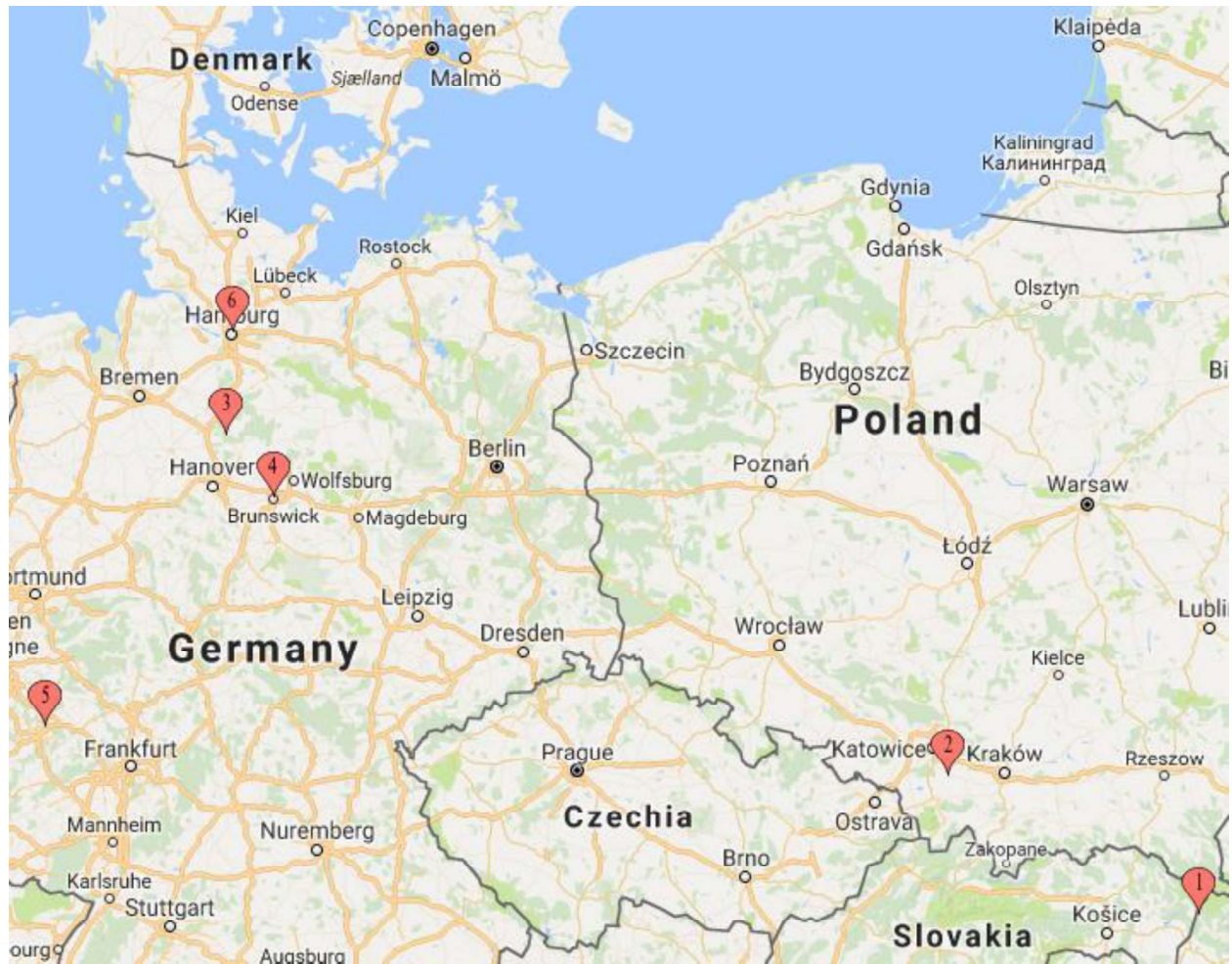
### Herman Wohl



1. Maly Berezny (today: Malyi Bereznyi, Ukraine) – Wohl Village
2. Bor Mines
3. Flossenbürg Concentration Camp
4. Elbe IV (Sub-camp: Flossenbürg) in Aue
5. Karlsbad
6. Theresienstadt Concentration Camp (Herman liberated)

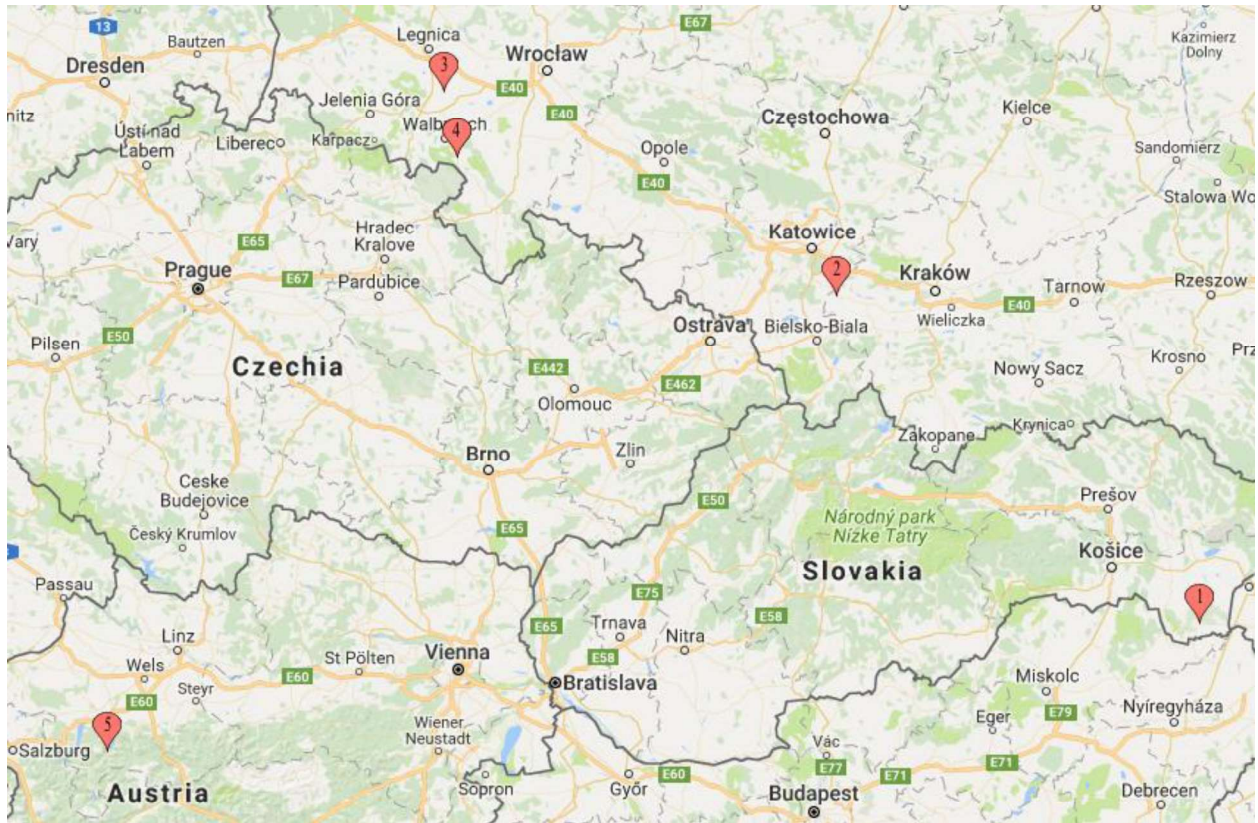


## Margit Wohl



1. Maly Berezny (today: Malyi Bereznyi, Ukraine) – Wohl Village
2. Auschwitz Concentration Camp
3. Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp
4. Braunschweig (Sub-camp: Neuengamme)
5. Bendorf Labor camp
6. Hamburg, Germany (Margit liberated)

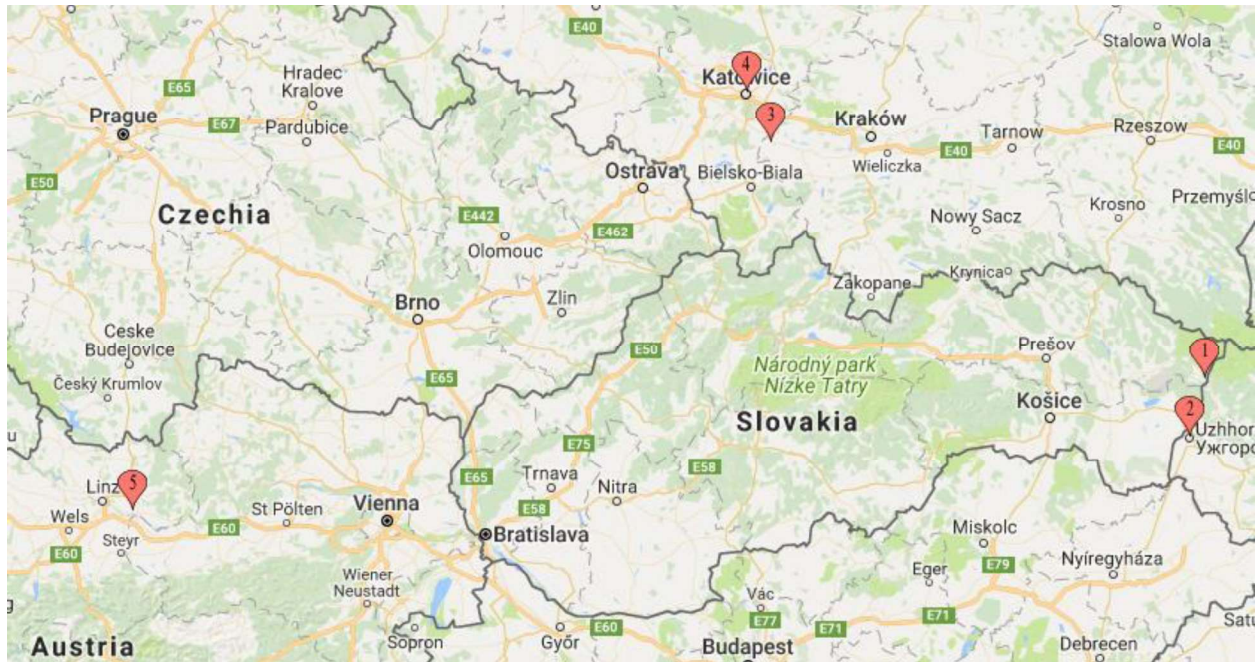
## Shoni Keisler Path Through the Camps



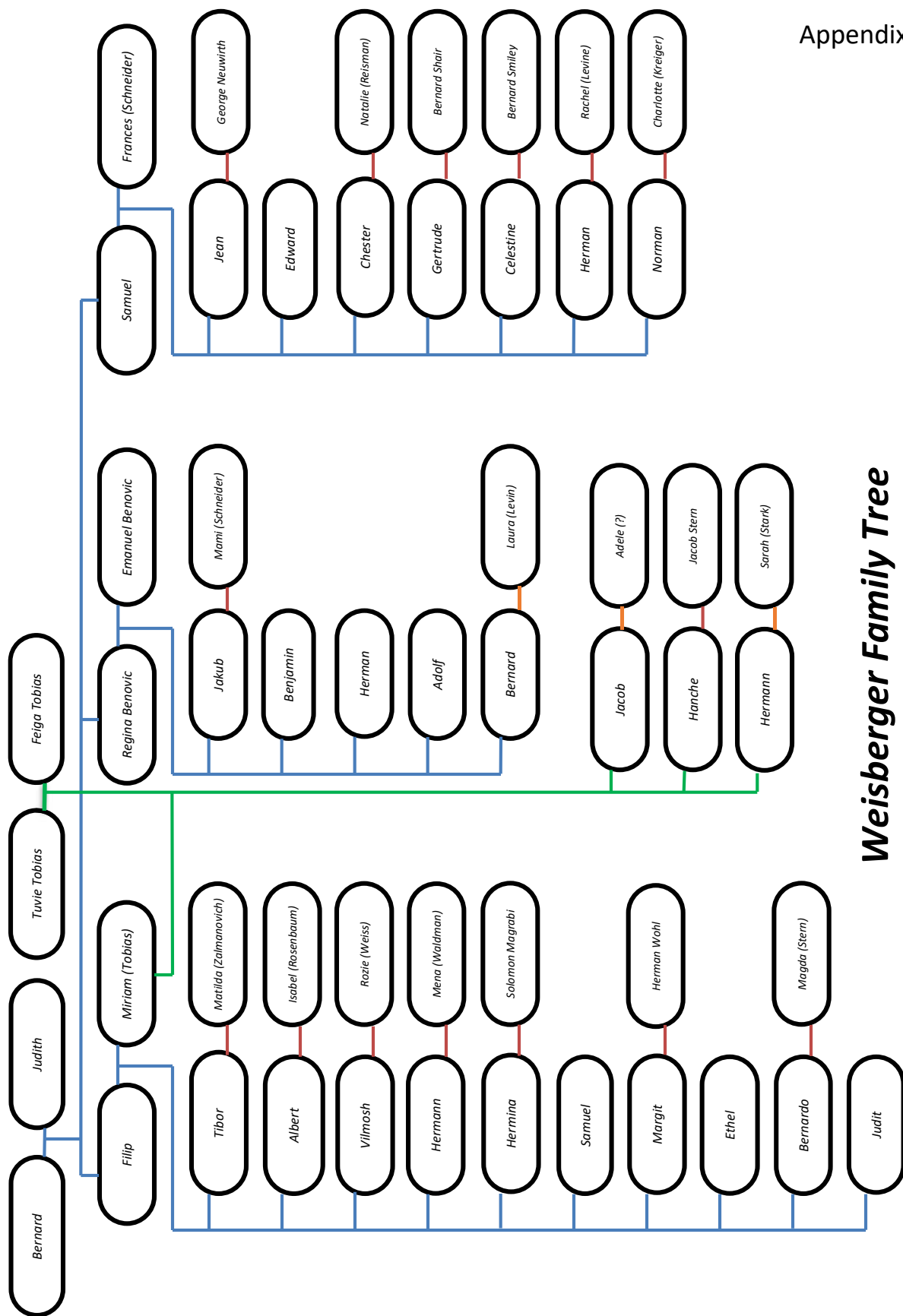
1. Border Shoni arrested
2. Auschwitz Labor Camp
3. Gross Rosen Labor Camp
4. Wüstegiersdorf (Sub-camp: Gross Rosen)
5. Ebensee (Sub-camp: Mauthausen) (Shoni died)



## **Bernard Benovic Path Through the Camps**

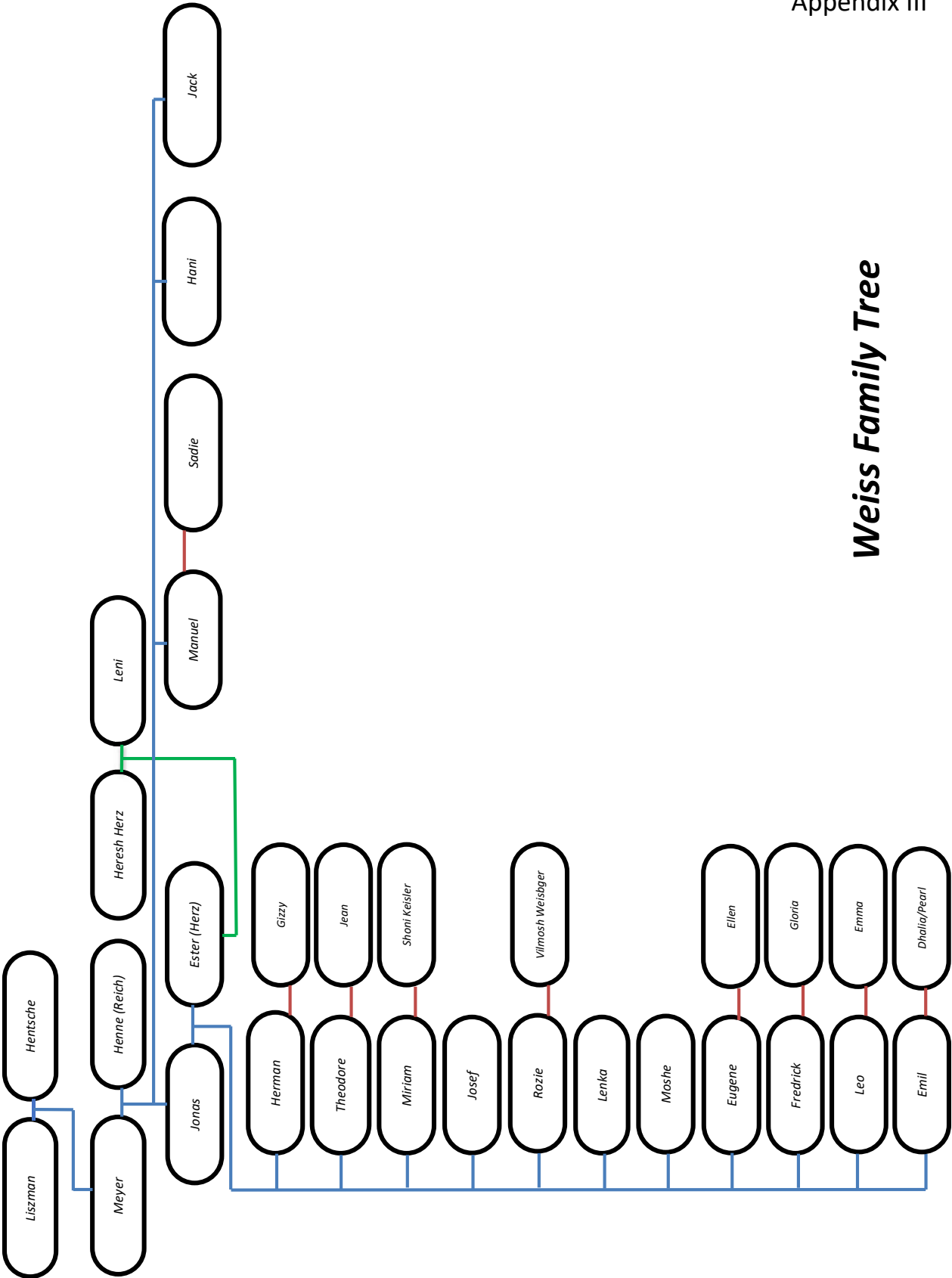


1. Ubyla, Slovakia (today: Ubl'a, Slovakia) – Benovic family village
2. Ungvar, Ukraine – regional collection center
3. Auschwitz Labor Camp
4. Katowice, Poland - factory
5. Mauthausen & Gusen II Labor Camp (Bernie liberated)



## Weisberger Family Tree

\* Some documentation indicate Bernard also had three daughters (Mari, Katie, Sarah) from another relationship, Regina (nee Brill ?) prior to Judith. What happened with this relationship so far is unknown. The daughters immigrated to the U.S.A. in late 1800s.



**Weiss Family Tree**

## Appendix IV – The “S’s” in our name

### Is it one or two “S”s in Weisberger?

There has always been a question of the true spelling of the family name. Some spell it with one “S” others with two. The origin of this confusion traces back to when the area was under the control of the Austro-Hungarian Empire back in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century making Hungarian the dominant language with public records. The “S” in Hungarian is “SZ”. When the area gained its independence from the Austro-Hungarian Empire and was officially part of the Czechoslovak Republic, records started converting to the native language, which in some cases translated the “SZ” into “SS” and in other cases went back to just the single “S” spelling. Most records, including early census records show the name spelled with one “S”, however there are a handful of records with the two “S” spelling. Interestingly there are some records that have more than one sibling and each have it spelled differently.





**The story of two proud Jewish Families. From their peaceful life in the late 19th century villages of Slovakia to the horrors of survival under Nazi rule, to the threats of life in post-war Communism. Two families of farmers and lumber merchants combine and from the 35 patriarchs, matriarchs, siblings, spouses, and children born during those tumultuous times, as a family, 26 survived it all...**



**This is our family. Our story is being told to be shared with every future surviving generation to remember the strength, courage and sacrifices everyone of them made to be able to bring us to where we are today. To keep alive the names, faces, and stories of those who did not make it out. To always remember...**

**דור לדור**